

Thomas May

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ARMY REFORM.

THE only excuse for the immense amount of attention that our journals have given of late to foreign affairs, is that a careful study of the important events that have been taking place abroad may not only be interesting but also profitable to ourselves. The Prussians have made a few experiments at the expense of the Austrians, which we could not afford to have tried upon us; and the question now naturally arises whether the Prussian system of warfare, as recently exemplified, may not be looked upon as one to which we must in some measure conform, at the risk, if we neglect to do so, of finding ourselves, in all respects, outmatched by the great military

Powers of the Continent. Of course, no idea can be seriously entertained in England of keeping up a standing army numerically as strong as that of Russia, France, Austria, or even Prussia, whose army, however, when it is on a peace-footing, and without counting the formidable reserve, is not larger than the force maintained by England at home and in the colonies. But it has been suggested that we might make up in quality for what we are sure to want in quantity; and there certainly can be no reason, except inefficiency in the administration of the War Department, why the English army should not be as well, or indeed better, equipped than any army in the world. We are not a manufacturing nation

for nothing, and one kind of manufacture in which we excel is that of arms.

It has been said that, at the battle of Sadowa, and throughout the late Austro-Prussian war, one Prussian armed with the needle-gun was equal to three or four (some writers went as far as half a dozen) Austrians carrying ordinary muzzle-loading rifles; and at one action the Prussian military correspondent of the *Times* has told us that every Austrian sharpshooter had two men to load for him; while the Prussian sharpshooter, with his needle-gun, naturally loaded for himself. In this well-authenticated case, then, the possession of the needle-gun gave to every Prussian sharpshooter the value of



"THE NORWEGIAN BRIDE."—(FROM THE PICTURE BY TIDEMAND, EXHIBITED IN LONDON IN 1862.)

three men, in so far that it took three men to oppose him. Now, there would be no real trouble in arming our troops so as to give them something of the superiority over the Prussians that the Prussians in their recent campaign have enjoyed over the Austrians. The Prussian needle-gun is by no means the best infantry weapon yet invented; and, whatever the first cost may be, it would be economy in the long run to furnish all our troops with the best possible rifle for campaigning purposes that can be produced.

It is said, however, that a superior kind of firearm, to be really effective, must be placed in the hands of a superior kind of soldier; and, though we cannot understand what difficulty the class of men of whom our army is now in the main composed would find in making use of a breech-loading instead of a muzzle-loading rifle, there can be no doubt but that the English army, as compared with the Prussian or even the French army, is made up of very inferior materials. We are not going to be so "un-English" as to say that the soldiers of England are inferior to those of any Power; but what cannot be denied is, that our army does not represent England in the sense in which the Prussian army represents Prussia; and that, whereas the Prussian army is probably the very best that could be formed out of the Prussian population, the English army is certainly not the best that could be got together out of the population of England. We are fond of boasting that our army is an army of volunteers; but it would be difficult to say much for the majority of the men who voluntarily enter it; and, if we wish our little army to be the best possible army of its size, we must improve the quality of the men as well as that of the muskets.

This is the really difficult part of the problem. If our soldiers are not supplied before long with the best possible breech-loaders that will be simply the fault of the War Department, and it will be a fault that the first capable chief will be able to remedy. But how is a plan to be devised by which the same class of men who are found in such large numbers in the Prussian army, and who give a character of comparative respectability to some of the French regiments, can be tempted into the ranks in England? In vain our working-classes are reminded from time to time by some of our most influential journals that the pay of a soldier, all things considered, is better than that of an agricultural labourer; a soldier's life is not a popular one in this country, and though, as is so often repeated, our army is an army of volunteers, it is their poverty, not their will, that makes thousands of Englishmen every year place themselves in the hands of the recruiting sergeant. It would appear at first sight from the statistics on the subject that a military life has more attractions for Irishmen than for Scotchmen, and more for Scotchmen than for Englishmen; but the truth of the matter no doubt is, that there are more needy men, in proportion to the population, in Scotland than in England, and more in Ireland than in Scotland.

In fact, it is difficult to understand how any man in his senses, unless compelled by absolute want, can enter the ranks of our army at all. The pay may be as good as that of an agricultural labourer (which is not saying much), but the recruit exchanges liberty for slavery; he ceases to be master of his own movements, and places himself under a system of law by which he is liable to receive for trivial offences a degrading punishment reserved in civil life for garotters and hardened criminals, who commit outrages even in prison. As for his chances, he stands in war time a very good chance of being killed, or, worse still, of being discharged, wounded and unfitted for work, with a most inadequate pension. On the other hand, he may rise to the rank of sergeant major, and it is just possible that a superior man entering the army as a private may in time obtain a commission. Indeed, a man of respectability and good education can scarcely fail to make himself remarked, which would not be so much the case if the general character of the service were raised. But the prospect of being the one decent man in a hundred is scarcely a temptation to decent men in general; and the certainty of obtaining advancement for really distinguished services is the sort of inducement that ought to be held out to the better class of adventurers who, with a real taste for military life, have no taste at all for associating with such men as now form the bulk of our army.

It is not a great hardship, perhaps, that in England, as in most other countries—Prussia distinctly included—the ordinary private soldier should have very little chance of becoming an officer. What chance has a ploughboy of becoming a landed proprietor? or a factory operative of becoming a master manufacturer? However, the Prussian army contains so large a proportion of educated men—first, because the whole population of Prussia has received at least an elementary education; and, secondly, because every male inhabitant, with some unimportant exceptions, is obliged to serve. In England, as we cannot drive respectable men into the army, we ought to endeavour to attract them to it; and this might, no doubt, be done by increasing the pay, by increasing very much the chances of promotion, and by ensuring pensions of a sufficient amount to deserving soldiers on their retirement. It has been suggested that a number of government places, such as those of letter-carrier, porter at a public office, and so on, might be reserved exclusively for old soldiers; and the suggestion seems a good one. Of course the changes we are thinking of would be expensive; but on the whole it would, no doubt, be found cheaper to have a good army than a bad one.

THE FOREST OF VIZZABONA, CORSICA, caught fire some days ago, and has been burning ever since. This vast forest, consisting chiefly of pine-trees, celebrated for their immense yield of resin, was, at the latest accounts, one vast sea of fire. Millions of valuable trees are destroyed.

THE TOILETTE OF A NORWEGIAN BRIDE.

THERE are few of our readers who will not remember those wonderful pictures of Norwegian life and customs which delighted them during the last great Industrial Exhibition, when Mr. Tidemand was amongst the most successful artists, as his paintings were amongst the most attractive objects for hundreds of appreciative spectators.

None of those pictures were superior in subject or in exquisite handling to that from which our Engraving is taken; and its excellence lies in the fact that, although it represents an incident in social life to which most of us are strangers, since it is an old Norwegian custom, it is capable of at once rousing the sympathies of those to whom it tells its tender story.

They are wonderful people, these Norway folk, whether we look at them in their quaint old towns, in remote villages, or in the high dairies or *saters*, where in mere huts, perched in mountain solitudes, the fair-haired peasants live in easy contentment amongst a thriving household of farmyard animals. The very dresses of the people retain their primitive quaintness and fashion of homely gaiety—the men with their bright woollen caps, their queer jackets, with particular sleeves and cuffs, and great silver buttons; the women, when high days and holidays emancipate them from field labour, in marvellous head-dresses, and strange, massy pieces of jewellery—cherished heir-loom for a dozen generations.

It requires a native artist to have so faithfully represented that marvellous interior—and, by-the-by, all Norwegian interiors amongst the peasants are browned with the mellow colouring of the smoke from the wood fires; even the faces and hands of the people are of that hue—and no other than a native artist could so admirably have caught the national features and the national furniture—the strange, queer, old ornamental boxes; the great chest, which is the one unvarying treasure of every household; and the strange chains, rings, draperies, owches, earrings, and hoarded wealth of plate, linen, and nappery which these receptacles contain. The ordinary costume of dark-blue woollen cap, fitting closely, but rising to a horseshoe shape at back; the sleeveless cloth body, embroidered in front with red, and the white linen sleeves as a contrast, is striking enough even in its singular plainness; but the wedding costume of a bride is an extraordinary combination of all the family ornaments displayed on her person. In Mr. Wyndham's amusing book describing his tour in Norway is related how the traveller was led over a Norwegian farmhouse, and to a room in the upper story where hung against the wall a numerous assortment of coats, which had belonged to the father and the grandfather of the hostess. They were cut like evening coats, and most of them were of scarlet cloth, with much embroidery. These coats were worn on high days and holidays, notwithstanding some slight change in the fashion.

Two huge boxes, with the name of the original owner and the date of their construction painted on them, next revealed further treasures. One of them held the family plate, consisting of silver dish-covers, coffee-pots, spoons, soup-ladles, &c., while in the other were carefully packed the fine tableclothes and superior linen, which, like the red coats, only appeared on rare occasions. There were also a few richly-embroidered women's caps, amongst which the good dame showed the travellers, with great glee, the identical little cap she had worn at her own christening.

It is easy to understand, therefore, that a bride is decked in all the collected adornments of the entire family, and that, if she come of well-to-do connections, the heirlooms of half a dozen generations are devoted to her trousseau; for the wedding in Norway is the great event of life, and before and after it the happy humdrum of these good people is seldom disturbed by any great ceremonial excitement.

A POINT OF HONOUR.—The *Levant Herald* states that some time ago the American Consul, a Mr. Luigi Palma De Cesnola, at Larnaca, Cyprus, took into his service as *casas* a Mussulman native, named Mustapha. Shortly afterwards the mudir of the town claimed the man as a drawn conscript seeking to evade military service, and, on the Consul refusing to give him up, ordered a party of zaptiehs to enter the house of the American consular dragoman, a certain Costand Bebes, and carry off the man. Thereupon the Consul addressed a formal complaint to the Governor of the island, demanding the punishment of the mudir and an ample apology for the alleged outrage on his own consular dignity. On inquiry into the facts, however, the Pacha considered the mudir to be in the right, and therefore refused the consular demand. Mr. Palma De Cesnola accordingly "suspended relations," and referred the matter to the Hon. E. Joy Morris, the American Minister in the capital. The latter, accepting his subordinate's version of the facts, has addressed an energetic and categorical note to the Porte, demanding (1) the dismissal of the mudir; (2) a personal apology from the Pacha to the Consul, at the house of the latter, with a simultaneous salute of twenty-one guns to the American flag; (3) that done, the dismissal of the Pacha himself; and (4) the liberation and payment of a substantial compensation to the *casas* Mustapha. In the event of the Porte's unwillingness to concede these four points, Mr. Morris has, it is said, requested Admiral Goldsborough, commanding the American squadron in the Mediterranean, to send one of his ironclads to Larnaca, what to do our information states not.

INSTANTANEOUS PHOTOGRAPHY.—On Saturday afternoon last some experiments were made by Mr. Skafte, at his studio in Sussex-place, Regent's Park, in taking photographs—which is the new word used officially at South Kensington—by artificial light instantaneously. The objection to the use of magnesium wire has been that the glare of it is commonly too strong for the sitters; and, although it is useful for interiors, especially where daylight never enters, it is not likely to come into general use on account of the appreciable time that a negative requires. The plan which Mr. Skafte hopes to bring into practical working is simple enough. A plate, carefully prepared, is put into a camera; the sitters, in a partially-darkened room, engages in conversation with anyone, so as to secure a natural play of expression; a little powder on the pan of an ingenious lamp is set off in a puff, like the flash of a charge of gunpowder, and before the sitters can wink from the effect of the sudden light his photograph is taken. The powder is composed of certain parts of pulverised magnesium and chlorate of potash, and is set on fire by being heated by a spirit-lamp under the pan, which has a hole in it, and the light is brought into contact with the dry powder when the pan is slightly shaken by means of a wire. The pan having a reflector at the back, the light is thrown full on the sitters, and the negative is perfectly secured in about the fiftieth part of a second. Some of the negatives taken on Saturday were admirable; the expression—to catch which has been long one of the problems of photography—being remarkably good; and, although one or two were below the average, this is easily accounted for by the fact that persons of dark or sunburnt complexions require to have half a grain more powder flashed than others of fairer face. It will yet need some time to develop fully the advantages of this new invention, which is, however, even in its present stage, full of interest for amateurs or artists in photography.

MOUNTAIN SILK OF NORTH CHINA.—Mr. Consul Meadows, whose consular district includes Manchouria and Eastern Mongolia, reports that mountain silk remains as yet the one article which the district is likely to furnish to England. There are two crops of the mountain cocoon—a spring and an autumn; the autumn much the largest, but the spring greatly superior in quality. In the autumn the cocoons intended for the spring crop are placed in baskets, which are hung up in Chinese dwelling-rooms facing the south, but still having a temperature in the greater part of the winter considerably below freezing-point. The natural heat of spring suffices to bring the chrysalis out of the cocoon in the butterfly state. The butterflies then couple, eggs are produced in four or five days, and are laid on paper spread upon mats and tables. In a few days each egg produces a very small black worm, which is nourished by young oak-leaves that are gathered and scattered over the paper. After some days the worms are transferred to the oak bushes on the hill slopes. After its first sleep or torpor of a couple of days the worm becomes green in colour and larger in size. For its fifth sleep it prepares by spinning itself into a cocoon, in which it assumes the chrysalis shape. When the worm begins to make its cocoon, it selects two or more oak-leaves, more or less facing each other, and joins them together by a network of the silk thread which keeps issuing from its mouth as it moves its head from the one leaf to the other, holding on by its back claws to the twig from which the leaves grow. When the leaves are sufficiently joined to form a sort of cup or basket under the twig, the worm drops into the receptacle it has thus formed, first quite surrounds itself with the loose, flossy-like silk which forms the outer portion of the cocoons as they come to market, and then proceeds to thicken the inner surface by further thread-spinning, till its bulk is sufficiently decreased for its turning into the chrysalis shape. The best silk is produced by nourishing the worm on the leaves, not of the oak, but of the "Teen-tso-tee," which exists, however, only in small quantities. The chrysalis which are not kept for breeding, are used by the Chinese as an article of food. Not a tenth of the hillside suitable for the oak-bushes are at present planted with them. But, considering the quantity of silk already produced, it may be taken that the trade could be developed into one of appreciable importance even for our great manufacturing interests, unless exactions and jealousies of the local mandarins interposed to repress it.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon, whose health seems much improved, annoyed by the schemes of aggrandisement which have been attributed to him since the publication of his despatch to the Prussian Court, has taken means to assure the English Government that he never contemplated the acquisition of a single inch of Belgian territory. The *Moniteur*, however, thinks it necessary to contradict a statement, current last week, that the Emperor had written a letter to the King of the Belgians giving him an assurance that he has no intention of annexing Belgian territory.

ITALY.

General La Marmora has resigned his position as Chief of the Staff, and has been replaced by General Cialdini. He has also given up the post of Minister without portfolio. General Pettinengo, Minister of War, has also resigned, and has been succeeded by General Cugia.

A Royal decree has been issued, appointing Prince Humbert, honorary President of the Italian Commission of the Paris Exhibition, Baron de Maleret, the French Minister, is also among the members of the Commission.

It is now stated that the peace negotiations between Italy and Austria will be conducted at Vienna. There seems to be no doubt that peace will be made, Italy taking the best terms she can get, and asking for more than is likely to be given. Meantime, Austria is resuming her old evil ways in the Trentino. The Austrian commander of the district ordered the municipality of Trent to give a public fête on the occasion of the birthday of the Emperor Francis Joseph. The municipality declined to obey willingly. They would make holiday if they had written orders from the Austrian authorities to do so, but not otherwise. We are not told whether these written orders were given.

Intelligence comes to us from Vienna that direct negotiations are to be opened between Victor Emmanuel and the Pope. The Holy Father is said to have announced the fact to Count Sartiges, and Italian plenipotentiaries are expected at Rome in a very short time. It is not stated whether the initiative step is due to the head of the Papal Church or to his rebellious son. This prospect of reconciliation, however, is discredited from Paris.

GERMANY.

The peace negotiations between Prussia and Austria are reported to be progressing satisfactorily, and it is thought that peace itself will be formally concluded within eight or ten days. Another satisfactory piece of intelligence is that the hitch which had arisen in the peace negotiations between Prussia and Bavaria is removed, and that there is every prospect of a speedy settlement of the question.

In Prussia, the King and his Minister are busy arranging for the consolidation of the new kingdom. The process is not likely to be very difficult, for the annexations are all to the taste of the peoples concerned. The address of the Upper House has been presented to the King and has been most graciously received.

The Czar has addressed an autograph letter to the King of Prussia testifying to the friendly relations between the two States, and showing that Russia favourably entertains the overtures made by Prussia relative to the future reorganisation of Germany.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor of Austria and Princess Caroline of Saxony have arrived at Pesth, where, with the Imperial descendants of Maria Theresa, they have taken part in the annual festival held in honour of Hungary's patron saint, Stephen.

It is stated in a Vienna paper that an effort is about to be made to conciliate Hungary. That country is to have a separate Ministry. But the announcement is coupled with another which certainly will not gratify the Hungarians—namely, that the Ministry is to be of an eminently Conservative character.

RUSSIA.

The Russians appear to have had two little difficulties in hand. The Polish exiles who were recently banished so remorselessly to Siberia have risen in insurrection there. At Irkutsk they seem to have achieved a momentary success, but were subsequently suppressed. The people, too, of Soukum-Kale, in Circassia, have revolted, in consequence of the heavy taxes which it was sought to impose upon them. They appear to have slain several Russian soldiers.

TURKEY.

The Turks are likely, apparently, to be ejected from Candia. There is an insurrection there, and the insurgents, numbering some 25,000 strong, have secured important positions. The Turks have made some attempts at repression, but appear to be wholly unable to cope with the revolt.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York by the ordinary channels to the 11th inst.

The Governor of Louisiana had issued an address justifying the assembling of the Free State Convention in New Orleans, and declaring that its opponents had concerted a plan to break it up by force. The Governor states that the rebel feeling of the slaveholding aristocracy is not yet extinguished, and that they seek to retain political power by the same spirit of violence by which their chiefs sustained their supremacy before the war. If the military be withdrawn from New Orleans, the Governor believes that the lives of Union men will not be safe. As a consequence, military law prevails. The Mayor and Sheriff are accused of complicity in the homicides which occurred during the recent riots.

It is said that the health of Mr. Davis, ex-President of the Southern Confederacy, was declining.

Queen Emma of the Sandwich Islands had arrived in New York, and was receiving every attention from the public officials of that city.

Among the news from New York is the account of an accident which befell Mme. Bonaparte, widow of Jerome Bonaparte, sister-in-law to the first Napoleon, and aunt of the present Emperor of the French. It appears that, as Mme. Bonaparte was descending the stairs of her residence in Baltimore, she fell forward and broke one of the small bones in her right wrist and bruised her forehead.

MEXICO.

In Mexico disturbances continue at such a rate that the departure of the Emperor Maximilian was spoken of.

Intelligence from Vera Cruz to the 27th ult. announces that several letters from Santa Anna had been intercepted and numerous arrests made. Juarez had refused Santa Anna's services, on the ground that his presence in Mexico would be an element of discord and weakness.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Brazilian mail, on its departure from Rio Janeiro, on the 24th ult., left matters in Paraguay pretty much in *statu quo*. It would seem, however, that the position of the allies does not improve with the lapse of time. The Paraguayans still continue to show fight, and are evidently increasing in audacity, whilst their foes are encamped in pastureless regions, where all their horses have died for want of fodder. Incapacity is charged against the Generals of the allies, and some of them were expected to be superseded. At the latest date the fleet was waiting for the army and the army for the fleet, and they had to advance in the teeth of Congreve rockets, terribly formidable torpedoes, and destructive fire-rafts, floated down the river by their enterprising enemies, who certainly show more gallantry on their own soil than when they were engaged in the invasion of their neighbours.

INDIA, JAPAN, AND CHINA.

Indian papers are still occupied with the sufferings of a large portion of the population of Bengal, consequent upon the great and general scarcity prevailing in many districts of that province. The accounts are, indeed, harrowing, but the authorities have the credit of sparing no effort to abate the frightful calamity. Many of the wealthier native inhabitants, too, are fully alive to the momentous

character of the crisis, and are daily distributing relief upon a liberal scale. Misfortunes do not come single, and to add to the evils of famine a great storm has devastated Western Bengal, sweeping away crops, cattle, and railway bridges before it. With the exception of these items, the news from India is barren of interest.

An important step has recently been taken by the Japanese Government, which strikingly illustrates the influence that European ideas, backed up, it must be confessed, by the "last argument," has upon the exclusiveness of that singular nation. The natives are now to be allowed to proceed to foreign countries on application for a permit to that effect. We should not omit to mention also as among the other civilising influences brought to bear upon our Oriental friends the power exercised by European music, the military bands at Yokohama proving vastly attractive. Regattas, parades, races, and rifle meetings are likewise spoken of as amusements which the Western barbarians have introduced: so that, altogether, life in Japan at this moment is decidedly jolly.

At Ningpo, during the progress of a Chinese festival, a bridge gave way, owing to the immense numbers congregated upon it, the result of which was the loss of upwards of one hundred lives. The monotony of existence at Hong-Kong has been broken chiefly by murders and piracy, an attack by a party of armed Chinamen on a private house, and two or three cases of suicide.

AN AUSTRALIAN STAGE-COACH.

The *Times* Melbourne correspondent gives the subjoined account of stage-coach travelling at the antipodes:—

A long, leather-covered, red-painted, four-wheeled affair, in three compartments, and open at the sides, having something of the appearance of three watering-place "flies" stuck together, and curiously uniting lightness and strength, is any one of Cobbs' line of American coaches running from Melbourne to Beechworth (near the borders of New South Wales), and from many of the up-country railway stations to districts which are distant from the line. This formidable structure, for long stages and bad roads, is usually drawn by six exceedingly well-bred horses. The driver, a young Yankee from Vermont and bearded like the pard, is on the box, looking as grave and responsible as the driver of a coach and six ought to look, and eyeing his team with complacency.

"All aboard?" cries this driver to all parties concerned, as full notice that he's ready to be off, for Cobb, like time and tide, waits for no man. "All aboard," respond the English portion of the "insides." "Let 'em go!" says Vermont, as he quietly turns a lump of "cavendish" in his cheek; and the grooms jump aside. The near-wheeler opens the proceedings by standing on his hind legs almost as straight as a man, but the harness is strong, and he is only one of six. Two or three others do a little plunging on their own private account. "Ah, yui!" shouts Vermont; "hi! ho! go than! Aberdeen! Sherman! Pompey!" The sound of their names from his authoritative mouth seems to recall them to their duty, and they tear off at speed. They are not many yards from the railway station when they are in the midst of wash-dirt and diggings. Here we are, amid a clump of trees; there, thundering through a deep and narrow gully. One while, the deep holes of the miners are within a yard or two of us on each side; another time, we are tearing away at the rate of sixteen miles an hour whenever we come to a bit of tolerably level ground. But, rough or smooth, on good metalled road or in mud up to the axle, our driver is always master of the situation, and we refuse to think that an accident is among the possibilities of the journey. These American drivers are quiet and self-possessed where an English stage-coachman—assuming any of the species are extant—would give up the whole concern for lost.

Who are my fellow-passengers? We recognise two or three, but the residue are strangers. There are one or two members of the Assembly, a barrister, an attorney, a bank manager, an inspector of police, with several of his men; a pretty young woman with a baby, a sprinkling of diggers of various nations (who amid their beards and weather-beaten faces and eccentric apparel may be either gentlemen or ruffians for aught you can tell at a glance), and, lastly, there are one or two olive-coloured, almond-eyed, bare-necked, pigtailed, blue-shirted Chinese. It is my fortune to have a Celestial immediately on my left hand on the same seat. He is a lively sort of fellow, and economical. He has one cigar, which about every half hour he takes from a side pocket, relights, enjoys about half a dozen whiffs, and then carefully wraps it up in paper and stows it away gain. Only, I suppose, by such careful habits as these, carried out into all the affairs of life, are 300 millions of people enabled to live within the Chinese empire. Almost all the rest of my fellow-passengers are provided with short pipes and with all the supplementary apparatus necessary for sudden and intermittent fits of smoking. On these long journeys we travel day and night, taking our meals at wayside inns, selected at convenient stages. The night is passed in songs and gossip, and my neighbour on my left is called upon for a Chinese ditty. After much pressing he clears his throat, and straightway emits a sound so like the squeaking of a distressed kitten that two or three wags get up a chorus to correspond, and the effect is most ludicrous. The Chinaman seems to accept it as a compliment to his national music, and, like the fellow in Horace, when once set a-going it is not easy to stop him. As the night, however, wears away, my Chinaman gets sleepy, and his head wagging on each side for a pillow, finally settles down on my left shoulder. I have at times imagined myself as cosmopolitan as most people; but the situation of a Chinaman asleep on my left shoulder is one which, I confess, in my most philanthropic moods I had never prepared myself for. I describe the matter here only because such a bit of travelling experience can hardly occur in the present day save in such a society as ours.

INFESTED WITH BATS.—A short time ago Mr. Parkes, superintendent of police at Appleby, received information that a leather purse, containing £20 in gold, belonging to George Bellas, had been stolen from a bed-room at Strickland Hall. He proceeded to the spot and made a careful investigation into the affair. It appears that, on retiring to bed about eleven o'clock on the previous night, Mr. Bellas had left the purse containing the £20 and other £7 loose in his pocket, and on rising at five o'clock next morning he found that a hole had been made in his pocket and the purse and its contents had been abstracted, and that the rest of the money was lying scattered about the room. Suspicion attached to a serving-man, who had occupied the same bed with the unfortunate loser, and he was charged with the offence; but when Mr. Parkes came to examine the place he saw that the thief was a creature of a very different kind. He found that the pocket had not been cut, but had been gnawed through; while the fact of so much money being found lying on the floor showed that the thief was not one who cared much for the current coin of the realm. Further inquiries put him in possession of the fact that the house and outbuildings were infested with rats, and he then became convinced that the burglars were still lurking about the premises. He accordingly sent for a joiner and caused him to pull up part of the bed-room floor and part of the stairs' landing, and the result showed that his theory was correct. Under the landing-boards the missing purse was found, completely eaten through; part of the money lay close beside it, and the rest was discovered under the bed-room floor, about a yard off.

REWARDS TO A LIFE-BOAT'S CREW.—The French Emperor has presented a first-class gold medal and certificate to Mr. N. Levett, coxswain of the St. Ives life-boat, belonging to the National Life-boat Institution, and a first-class silver medal and certificate to each of the crew, consisting of eight men, of the life-boat, in acknowledgment of their very noble and persevering services in saving, at great risk of life, four men belonging to the brig Providence, of Granville, France, which was wrecked last winter during a fearful storm on Hayle Bar, Cornwall. When seen the sea was making a clean breach over the wreck, and the crew were supposed to be in the rigging. The St. Ives life-boat, of the Royal National Life-boat Institution, was at once launched. In crossing the bar, with a drague or drag-bag in tow, which carried her safely over two heavy surfs, a tremendous sea broke over her stern, and the drague-rope breaking from the immense strain on it, she flew before the crest of the surf in almost a perpendicular position, and, running her bow under water, broached to and upset. She soon, however, righted, and all her crew managed to get on board. Two oars, grapple, anchor, and rope were lost, and two crutches broken. Although rowing four oars only, the crew persevered and contrived to get her under the lee of the vessel, which was the French brig Providence, bound from Cardiff to Dieppe with coal. With a heavy sea and strong under-current, however, the life-boat's crew found it impossible to get alongside. Nearly an hour passed in signalling to the French crew to send a rope by means of a spar or raft; when this at last was done, the coxswain signalled to haul on board the life-buoy, intending to take the men off through the water, but he could not make himself understood. Two of the crew now endeavoured to reach the life-boat by means of the connecting rope; one was being dragged on board, and the other was within four or five yards, when a fearful sea broke on the broadside of the boat and upset her a second time. She righted instantly, but the poor fellow who was on the rope lost his hold, and was never seen again. The other held fast to the boat, and the crew once more got into her without accident. The communication with the vessel had not been broken, and the life-boat again hauled up as near as possible to her. The captain and remaining two men then took to their boat, when the second wave capsized them. Through a fearful sea the life-boat was hastily hauled ahead, and the three men were most fortunately picked up. The crew of the life-boat landed at Hayle thoroughly exhausted. A more heroic service was, perhaps, never rendered by any boat. In admiration of it a local contribution was raised to present a suitable acknowledgment of their bravery and endurance to the life-boat's crew, in addition to the rewards of the Life-boat Institution, consisting of a silver medal and £2 to the coxswain, and a beautiful illuminated testimonial and £2 to each of his brave crew.

THE PRUSSIAN ANNEXATIONS.

At the sitting of the Prussian Chamber of Deputies on Friday week the House was crammed, as were also the seats reserved for the Corps Diplomatique and for spectators. At the Ministerial table were observed Count von Bismarck, von der Heydt, Count Itzenplitz, Count Eulenburg, Herr von Müller, and von Selchow. While the who's House were standing, Count von Bismarck read the following Royal message:—

We, William, by the grace of God King of Prussia, &c., make known unto all as follows:—

The Governments of the kingdom of Hanover, the electorate of Hesse, and the duchy of Nassau, as well as the free city of Frankfurt, have, through taking part in the hostile attitude of the former Germanic Diet, placed themselves in open state of war with Prussia. They have refused neutrality, as well as the alliance offered them repeatedly, and even in the last hour, by Prussia, under promise of guaranteeing to them their territorial possessions. They have taken active part in the war of Austria against Prussia, and have brought down upon themselves and their countries the decision of war. This decision has, by the will of God, resulted against them. Political necessity compels us not to reinvest them with the power of Government of which they have been deprived through the victorious progress of our army. If they were to retain their independence, the said countries would, on account of their geographical position, through a hostile or even only a doubtful attitude of their Governments, be able to cause difficulties and obstacles to Prussian policy and military action far exceeding the measure of their actual power and importance. It is not a craving for acquisition of territory, but a sense of the duty of protecting our hereditary States from recurring dangers, and to give to the national reconstruction of Germany a broader and firmer foundation, which compels us to unite for ever with our monarchy the kingdom of Hanover, the Electorate of Hesse, the duchy of Nassau, and the free city of Frankfurt. We know that only part of the population of those States shares with us the conviction of this necessity. We respect and honour the feelings of fidelity and allegiance which bind the inhabitants of those States to their former princely houses and to their independent political institutions. But we trust that actual participation in the progressive development of the national union, along with a lenient treatment of all justifiable peculiarities, will facilitate the unavoidable transition into the new and greater community. We request the two Houses of Parliament to give the requisite constitutional assent to the intended union, and place before them the necessary bill in this respect.

The following is the text of the proposed bill:—

1. We assume for ourselves and our successors, on the basis of article 55 of the Constitution of the Prussian State, the government of the kingdom of Hanover, the electorate of Hesse, the duchy of Nassau, and the free city of Frankfurt.
2. The definite regulation of the relation of these countries to the territory of the Prussian State, on the basis of article 2 of the Constitution, is to be settled subsequently by separate law.
3. The Ministry of State is charged with the carrying into effect of the present law.

By the incorporation announced in the above message, Prussia will gain in territory and population as follows:—Hanover, 698 German square miles, 1,923,492 inhabitants according to Census, December, 1864; Electoral Hesse, 174 German square miles, 845,063 inhabitants; Nassau, eighty-five German square miles, 468,311 inhabitants; Frankfurt, two German square miles, 91,180 inhabitants: making together 959 square miles and 3,228,046 souls. The kingdom of Prussia Proper consists of 5058 square miles, with a population of 19,552,139; thus giving a grand total of 6017 German square miles and 24,480,185 inhabitants now belonging to the Prussian monarchy.

At a recent sitting of the Committee of the Lower House upon the address, Count von Bismarck gave the following explanations as to the policy intended to be pursued by Prussia:—

Little difference exists between the authors of the various draughts of addresses, or between the Government and the Chambers, as to the object to which the policy of Germany ought to be directed. The question is only to discover by what methods that object shall be attained. Government has been forced to confine itself within the limits of possibility—i.e., of what can be realised without enormous sacrifices and without compromising the future. We should have run this risk if we had crossed the limits we have marked out for our policy. We must keep the engagements we have contracted in this respect, and, above all, create confidence in our word. But we do not think it would have been useful at present to go further. The Prussian Government is sufficiently animated by strong ambition to render it advisable to moderate rather than stimulate it. According to the peace preliminaries, the North Germans will have the charge of regulating the national relations of the Southern Confederation. To carry out this task, we shall have to examine whether the want of this organisation is felt more strongly by the populations of South Germany than by their Governments, as it now happens that we see Prussian soldiers who pass beyond the line of demarcation exposed to the popular animosity.

It is for us next to impart solid foundations to the new union. I believe that in trying to extend them too far their solidity would be diminished. We could not, for instance, submit a State like Bavaria to such conditions as we intend now to impose upon certain States of the north. Let us try first to establish a powerful Prussia, a powerful Crown domain of the directing State. The tie of a close union, by which we mean to form Northern Germany, will not be so strong as an incorporation. Nevertheless, there are only two or three modes to prevent allied races, constrained by their Governments, turning their arms against us. The first of these is incorporation and complete fusion of the populations with Prussia, and, in especial, of the hostile functionalities, who will remain attached to the old Governments. The Government does not consider that it ought to surmount these difficulties at a single leap, as is the custom of the Latin peoples; but it will proceed in the German manner, by humouring the institutions suited to these populations, and accustoming them gradually to their new situation. The second course is the partition of the rights of sovereignty—i.e., the establishment of a military sovereign and a civil sovereign. Compelled by circumstances, we must endeavour to apply this system in Saxony. I had at one time marked preference for this method; but, after the impressions I have received from the reorganisation of Schleswig-Holstein, I am afraid such a system would become a source of collisions, which might lead to a coolness of the annexed countries towards their new masters. In reference to this point, I have been met with the remark, "We don't wish to become second-class Prussians." But, independently of these impressions, this system possesses the inconvenience that one of the two masters, the military sovereign, who is a foreigner, always comes forward with distasteful requirements, while all the beneficial influences of civil action remain in the hands of the old sovereign. I regret, as I have said, that we are compelled to make this experiment in Saxony.

Lastly, the third method would be to divide the territories as they have been hitherto composed. We did not wish to make a much-diminished Hanover and Saxony. We made unpleasant experiences with the system in Saxony in 1815. The portions of that country which were then given to Prussia have become completely fused with her; but in the portion that has preserved its autonomy a frank aversion is retained towards Prussia. For this reason we have now completely departed from this system, which was suggested to us; we have placed the interests of the populations above the interests of dynasties. It is true that this course, perhaps, produces the impression of injustice; but the science of politics has not the mission of Nemesis. Vengeance does not appertain to us. We must do what is necessary for the Prussian State, and must, consequently, not allow ourselves to be guided by any dynastic sympathy. People have already learnt to appreciate us, even in those very countries. Hanoverians have already said to me, "Preserve our dynasty for us; but, if that is not possible, then try at least not to parcel out our territory, but take it entire." As regards our allies, they have only been few in numbers, or weak; but duty no less than prudence ordains that we should keep our word, even to the smallest among them. The less hesitation Prussia shows in sweeping her enemies from the map, the more is she bound strictly to keep her word to her friends. It is precisely in Southern Germany that faith in our political loyalty will have great weight. As for the Constitution of the Empire of 1849, it will only be one of the forms through which the problem I have just pointed out will find its solution. I admit that, in theory, that Constitution proceeds with more strictness and consistency than our scheme, the union, because it makes, so to speak, of the different Sovereigns the subjects, the vassals, of the future Emperor of Germany; but these Sovereigns will be more disposed to concede rights to an ally, a functionary of the union, than to an emperor and sovereign. I shall have to enter more fully into the question during the debate upon the bills I shall have to lay before you to-day, and the bills for the elections to the Parliament.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ has returned to Boston from his scientific tour to Brazil. He will visit Europe next year as one of the commissioners to the Paris Exposition.

BURNS'S COTTAGE.—The necessities of the Ayr Incorporation of Shoemakers compel them to dispose of the most valuable property in their possession—"the auld clay biggin'" dear to all Scotchmen and to every admirer of the greatest lyric genius of this or any country—if they would maintain, and desire to enhance, the yearly allowances of their aged members. I understand the cottage is now to be exposed by private bargain at such a price as it may bring. The honour of becoming proprietor of the building hallowed by so many heart-stirring associations as the natal spot of our great national poet is one that cannot fail to be coveted by many.—*Ayrshire Express.*

DISASTROUS WRECKS AT THE CAPE.

THE recent wrecks of three fine ships off the Cape of Good Hope—the *Stalwart*, from Bombay to Liverpool; the *Alfred*, also for the same port from Bombay; and the *Agincourt*, from Southampton to Hong-Kong—will fall heavily on the underwriters at Lloyd's and marine insurance companies in the City, where insurances were effected on the ships and cargoes to more than £300,000, and which is considered as a total loss. Upwards of £200,000 was insured on the *Stalwart* alone and her cargo. She was a first-class iron-built ship, 1434 tons register, and belonged to the Bombay Iron Ship Company, and appears to have sailed from Bombay on April 25 last, with 5893 bales of cotton (valued at £30 per bale), 173 bales of wool, 114 tons of coir, thirty-four tons of linseed, and other merchandise. Her loss arose from meeting a succession of hurricanes between the 15th of June and the 21st, when she was thrown upon her beam ends and lay helplessly in the trough of the sea, with no chance of being saved. The boats were then got out successfully and dropped astern of the vessel. Captain Wilson advised all to remain by the ship, as being, notwithstanding all its hazards, less perilous than betaking themselves to the open sea; but at the same time giving the crew liberty to get into the boats if they thought it better. All did so, and by daylight every one but Captain Wilson had been lowered into a life-boat, a cutter, and a jolly-boat. Night was getting on, however, and the weather was threatening, and the officers in charge, finding that Captain Wilson refused to abandon the ship, cut the ropes and drifted away astern. Here an agonising scene occurred. Mrs. Wilson, in anguish at the apparent desertion of her brave husband, entreated the men to return and save him; but they, in the exercise of their discretion, to the best of their judgment, and in anxiety to save the many lives already in their charge, thought and declared it was impossible. At last she rose and vowed that if they did not immediately, and at all hazards, make for the ship, she would plunge into the sea herself and share her husband's fate, if not actually beside him in his drowning agony. This appeal was successful; they made for the ship, now almost out of sight, got under the stern, and Captain Wilson at last was induced to drop down into the same boat. A new arrangement was then made with the boats; in the cutter were the chief officer, one passenger (Mr. De Guadras), and thirteen of the crew; in the life-boat were Captain Wilson, Mrs. Wilson, two delicate children (one of ten and one of six years of age), the second officer, and eight of the crew; while in the little jolly-boat were five sailors, with most of the provisions. It was moonlight at the time they determined to keep together, steering (without compass) northward for the land, then some ninety miles distant. But at midnight the moon went down; they were all in darkness, parted company, and never saw each other more. In the captain's boat the distress and destitution were extreme. For clothing they had nothing but what they stood in. Mrs. Wilson had not even a bonnet, and the one blanket on board was used as a substitute for a sail. The sea ran wildly, drenching them with its spray, and at times all but swamped the tiny craft, and thus for three days and three nights they continued, having, beside the stout crew, the little gentle boy and girl already referred to, who, unconscious of the danger, seemed almost interested in the excitement—and Mrs. Wilson, a lady as fragile in form as gentle in spirit, who yet proved to be one of the bravest and most undaunted who ever encountered peril as a sailor's wife. On the third day all were well-nigh exhausted; and when it was announced that the boat was leaking, it was accepted as the final signal that their doom was sealed. By this time they had sighted the land twenty miles away; but, better still, they sighted her Majesty's ship *Swallow*, and immediately steered round in doubtful expectation of being noticed by her. The only signal they could show to attract attention was Mrs. Wilson's scarlet petticoat, hung out from the bow, and surely never was crinoline applied to better purpose. The *Swallow*, Commander Edward Wilds, saw the boat, made for her at once, and took in the distressed sufferers. The first boat, in which the chief officer, thirteen of the seamen, and one passenger of the *Stalwart* took refuge, parted company with the others, and proceeded along the coast until opposite Lesseyton, the adventurers attempted to land there, but the boat upset and eleven were drowned. Eight of the bodies were washed up, and were buried the following day at the Longridge Chapel of Ease by the Rev. J. Alana. The names of the four survivors are John Blodgett (cook), Peter Pairton, Peter Johnson, and John Staader. One of the bodies has been identified as De Guadras, of Bombay. The second boat (the jolly-boat) was fortunate in sighting the *Bird Island*, where they were hospitably received by the light-house-keeper for ten days, and then taken by the tug *Albany* to Port Elizabeth.

The loss of the *Alfred* was somewhat similar. She was formerly one of the fleet of East Indiamen owned by the late Mr. R. Green, of Blackwall, 1312 tons register, and cleared A 1 in Lloyd's register. She was under the command of Captain Norris, and had a cargo valued at £62 092 on board, consisting of as follows:—2263 bales of cotton, 1144 bales of wool, 26 tons of hemp, 47 tons of coir, 48 tons of seed, and 192 tons of linseed. She was abandoned at anchor on the 20th of June, off the coast, with 15 ft. of water in her hold, the crew and officers saving themselves in the boats. At three o'clock the same day the *Alfred* foundered.

The *Agincourt* was also formerly one of Mr. Green's splendid East Indiamen, but lately had become the property of Messrs. Livingston, Olding, and Briggs, of No. 31, Great St. Helens. She was bound from Southampton to Hong-Kong, with coals and machinery. She was abandoned on the 25th of June, the crew being picked up by the *Formosa*. Captain Philpot, master of the *Agincourt*, died on board his vessel just before she was abandoned. The second mate was washed overboard and drowned.

THE TEMPLE PUMPS.—The result of a careful analysis of the water from the four pumps in the Inner and Middle Temple, by Dr. Noad, Professor of Chemistry at St. George's Hospital, is the condemnation of the water of one of them long favoured in the Temple—viz., that in Hare-court. After having been twice analysed with the same results, this water is pronounced to contain organic matter, as proved by the residue left on evaporation becoming discoloured by heat. The presence of oxydised compounds of nitrogen points to the possible contamination of the spring by organic matters of an animal origin. Dr. Noad, confirmed by the medical officer of the West London union under the orders of the Privy Council, strongly recommends the continued closing of the pump during the prevalence of the prevailing epidemic. The pump, therefore, remains closed till further order. It is satisfactory to find that the water of the other three pumps, which are now open, is pronounced free from animal matter and quite fit for drinking. The condemned water is described by Dr. Noad as, nevertheless, "bright, free from smell and taste, and faintly alkaline."

GOLD AND SILVER STANDARDS.—Official papers which have been issued relating to the trial of the pyx in the early part of this year show that at the first coining of gold by Edward III., in 1344, the current value of 1 lb. of the old standard gold (of a carat alloy to 23½ carats of fine gold) was £18. It was progressively raised till it reached £25 2s. 6d., in the reign of Henry VIII., who established also the new standard of 22 carats gold and 2 carats alloy, and the two standards had currency together for more than a century by the name of angel (or fine) gold and crown gold respectively. In 1670 the new standard was established by Charles II. as the sole standard, and has so continued ever since. Its current value had been raised at various times, and was raised to £46 14s. 6d. in 1718, since which year there has been no variation, 1 lb. of standard gold being now coined after the rate of 48 29-40 sovereigns to the pound weight troy. The current value of 1 lb. weight of old standard silver, the "old right standard of England," as it is called in the Mint indenture of 1357 (11 oz. 2 dwts. of fine silver and 18 dwts. of alloy), increased progressively from 20s., in 1279, to 45s., in 1526. The standard was afterwards debased, and for sixpences and smaller moneys Edward VI. sanctioned a coinage of 8 oz. fine to 9 oz. alloy, the basest silver ever sanctioned in this country. Queen Mary restored the silver to a standard of 11 oz. fine to 1 oz. alloy, and if her regulations had been adhered to there would have been the same proportion of alloy in the gold and silver currencies—viz., one twelfth. Elizabeth restored the old standard of 11 oz. 2 dwts. fine, and this has since continued in force. In her reign 1 lb. weight was coined into 62s.; in 1817 it was fixed at 66s. It was anciently the King's prerogative to determine the current value of the coinage, and the prerogative was exercised by the Sovereign; but in later times the Sovereigns of this kingdom have always availed themselves of the advice and support of Parliament in regulating the weight and fineness of the coinage, and the standard of our present gold and silver coinage was legalised by the Act of Parliament of 1817.

VICE ADMIRAL TEGETHOFF.

SINCE the battle of Lissa, Austria has awakened to the fact that she really has a navy; and probably the Vice-Admiral who commanded the fleet in the engagement, which may be said to have been the only real success of the Imperial forces, is at present the most popular officer in the country.

Admiral Tegethoff has, in fact, opened the eyes of his countrymen to the advantage of their possessing a fleet, and no despicable fleet either, though they have been governed by the War Department since the Archduke Maximilian left them to become Emperor of Mexico.

The Archduke Max, as the officers and sailors of the navy still affectionately call him, is deeply regretted, and is spoken of in the warmest terms. He seems to have made the Austrian sea service, and his energy and influence at Vienna are much missed. The dockyards and arsenal at Pola are all the creations of his energetic administration, and it will be long before the Austrian navy finds so distinguished a friend. But the gods help those who help themselves, and it will not be the fault of the navy if it sinks again into obscurity. The officers say that if they appear in uniform in the streets of Vienna, they are stared at, and people ask them what nation they belong to. Will Austria become a seafaring and commercial people now that she has resigned her influence in Germany? Sanguine believers in her future destiny say "Yes;" but where is her coast line, where are her ports, and, above all, where is the money to keep up both an army and a fleet?

Some little enthusiasm for naval matters was evinced, however, at the review of the vessels at Trieste, last week, by the Archduke Albrecht, and Tegethoff was certainly the hero of the day, since to him belonged the credit of the victory at Lissa. Tegethoff spent a great part of the night before Lissa studying all the possible chances, and his captains were so well informed of his wishes that his death would have caused no confusion. He stood on his quarter-deck during the fight, and was as cool as he was dashing in his manoeuvres. All his officers speak of him with enthusiasm, and say that he has well earned the order of Maria Theresa, which is given only to those who have done something above their simple duty. When they were asked to select those among their number who were most deserving of decorations, they asked for the Maria Theresa orders of first and second class for Admiral Tegethoff and Vice-Admiral Retz of the Kaiser, and begged that no difference might be made among the rest, but that all might receive a small medal as a token that they had done their duty at the battle of Lissa.

In his early days the Vice-Admiral served in the Austrian cavalry; and at the Marine College he had for his comrades several young Venetians, who have since passed into the service of Italy; and amongst them the second officer of the *Rè d'Italia*, who perished with his vessel at Lissa.

Tegethoff was in command of the naval division during the war in Denmark, and there, in sight of Heligoland, engaged in an action in which he was defeated; but where he displayed the same energy and courage which have since distinguished him, and which have raised him to the rank of Vice-Admiral.

THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE.

ON Thursday afternoon week a fully rigged vessel, of 2½ tons burden, named the *Red, White, and Blue* (master and commandant J. M. Hudson, of New York) entered Margate harbour, having completed a most daring and extraordinary voyage from America in thirty-eight days. Her crew consisted of two men, accompanied by a dog. She is built on the life-boat principle (of metal), has airtight compartments, and is only 27 ft. long—about the length of a small sailing boat. She experienced a rough voyage, and the crew have determined, on their return journey, not to risk their lives by attempting so daring and extraordinary an adventure. This tiny ship, of which we publish an engraving, has arrived in the Thames off Greenwich. As above stated, there were only two persons in the boat, Captain Hudson and his mate, F. E. Fitch. There was also a dog on board, which, however, died shortly after leaving Margate on her way round to the Thames. The little ship left New York on July 9 for England, and Captain Hudson, having had great experience in the management of boats, had the greatest confidence that his vessel would make the trip. On July 18, in lat. 40 31 N.

56 W., at midnight, the boat struck something very solid a glancing blow on the port bow. All sail was set, and the shock of the blow was severe and stopped the vessel's headway. It was found that she had not sustained any damage. After the 15th no sail was sighted until Aug. 5, and they then spoke and went alongside the barque *Princess Royal*, of Yarmouth, seven days from Dublin for Quebec, and received from her a bottle of rum and two newspapers, and a signal-lamp. On the 5th a sea came up on the port quarter, which threw the vessel on her beam ends. She righted in half a minute. On the 8th she was again thrown on her beam ends, and got back by taking in all sail. Aug. 13, spoke the American barque *Wette Merryman*, two days from Havre, for New York, and got two bottles of brandy. 14th, twenty-seven miles off Ushant, shipped a heavy sea, which threw the vessel for the fourth time on her beam ends, filling the cabin and cockpit. Cleared the vessel by baling. At noon of the 14th



ADMIRAL TEGETHOFF, COMMANDER OF THE AUSTRIAN FLEET AT THE BATTLE OF LISSA.

she made the first English land, the Bill of Portland, bearing N.N.W., about twenty miles distant. On the 16th, blowing heavy from W.S.W., and being unable to carry any sail, got towed into Margate. There was no chronometer on board, and the vessel was worked by dead reckoning. The master and mate kept watch and watch during the tedious and perilous voyage. Owing to the heavy seas that were running, they had little opportunity of warming their provisions, which were in cases. They had 120 gallons of water on board, but they did not consume it all. The arrival of the little ship in the river has excited much interest, especially among American shipmasters, who have warmly congratulated Captain Hudson upon his marvellous trip.

THE FALL OF A HOUSE NEAR HOLBORN.

ON Monday afternoon Dr. Lankester, the Central Middlesex Coroner, held an inquest at the Holborn Union upon the bodies of Elizabeth Davis and Giuseppe Carlo Casartelli, two persons who were killed by the fall of a house in Ely-court, Holborn, on Thursday week.

Mr. L. Lewis represented the relatives of the deceased woman;

Mr. Burton appeared for the employers of the young man; and Mr. Edward Walwyn James, the clerk of the Holborn guardians, &c., with Mr. Isaacs, the surveyor to the District Board of Works, attended on behalf of the lessees of the fallen house, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Ledger.

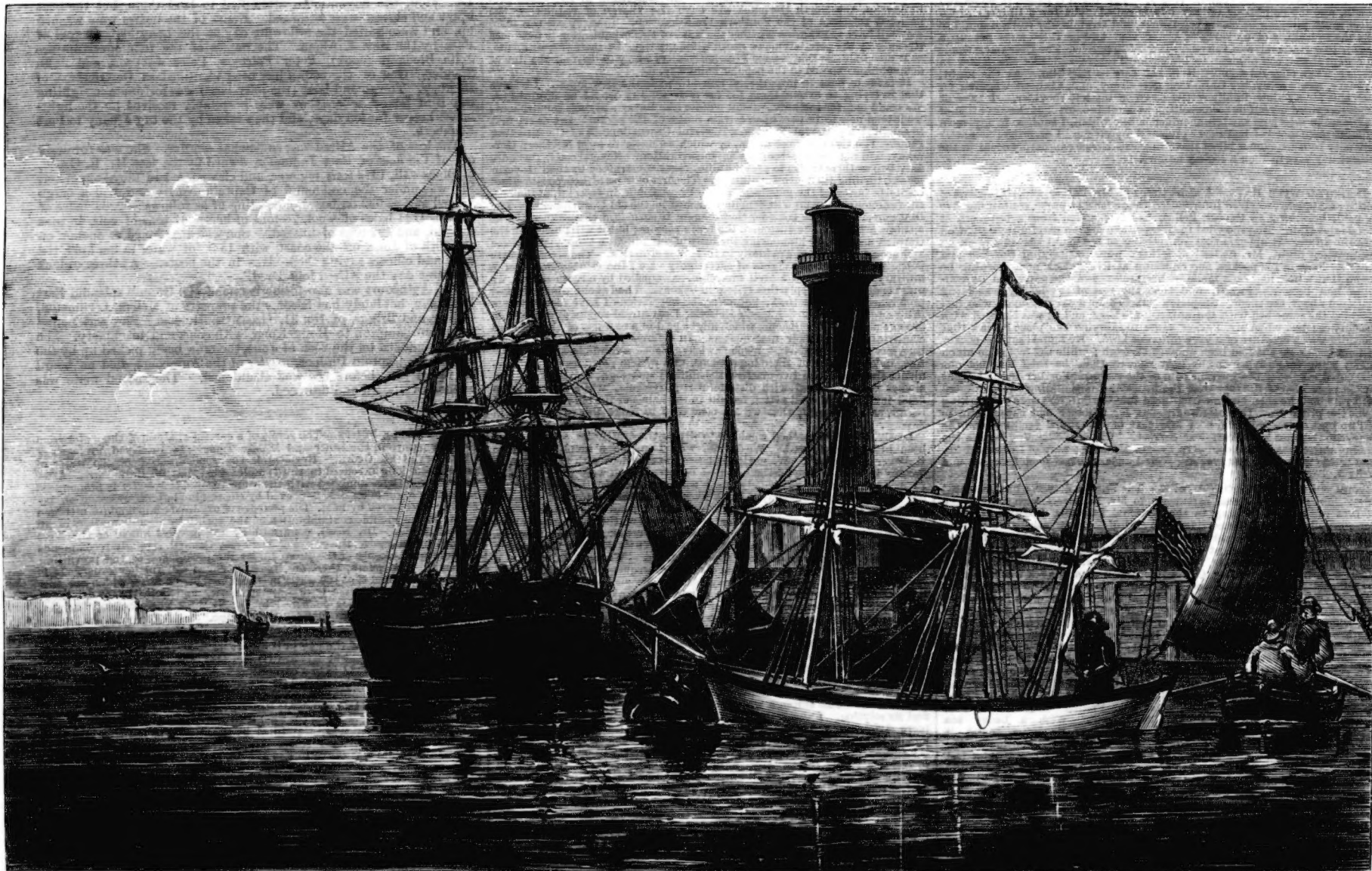
It should be explained before the evidence is entered upon that the house in question stood at the end of Ely-court, which, on the west side of Hatton-garden, like the historic Ely-place on the east side, runs parallel to that thoroughfare, so that the back part of the house, the part which fell, overlooked the houses on the west side of Hatton-garden. It may also be stated that the body of the woman, which had been taken to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in the City jurisdiction, had been delivered up to the authorities of the Holborn Union, so that this inquest should be sufficient for the two. After the bodies had been formally identified, the evidence relative to the accident was taken.

William Andrews, brother-in-law of the deceased woman and a lodger in the house, stated—I was present in the house when it fell, which was on Thursday, shortly after seven in the morning. I went to bed on the Wednesday night preceding before eleven o'clock. I lived on the first floor, and my boy lived in the same room, and the deceased woman lived in the next room, on the same floor. I had lived there over three years, and during that time I never saw anything to lead me to suppose the house would fall. I never knew of a beam which passed through to the next house. I was in bed at the time the house fell, and the first intimation I had of danger was the whole place giving way. I heard a cracking for a moment or two from the ceiling, and then the whole ceiling fell. The beams and walls all fell directly after, and I was "like abed in the street." The place was all filled with dust, and when I could see, a policeman came and helped me out. Part of my room was left standing. I rented the room of Messrs. Ledger and Clarke, and paid 3s. 9d. a week. I did not hear that the house was reported two years ago as dangerous. I am a cabinetmaker by trade, but I have not judgment enough in old buildings to say what caused the place to give way.

M. Guanziroli, of 106, Hatton-garden, the employer of the young man who was killed, was then examined. He said—I have called attention more than two or three times to this house. Fifteen months ago I told Mr. Clarke that the house would most likely fall down and somebody be killed. He came on my roof to look at it, and walked away without giving me an answer. I thought the house would fall because there had been a strut between it and 105, Hatton-garden, and which had rotted away and was never replaced. I saw the timber, this rotted timber, taken into the house in the presence of Messrs. Ledger and Clarke. The walls of the fallen house were completely rotten. The water used to come down from the gutters and bring the mortar down, and there were cracks in the wall. I complained of this about sixteen months ago to a surveyor, who wrote a letter to some one, and a gentleman who came made the landlords do something to the place to remedy these defects. I complained to the clerk of the district surveyor two or three times that the house would be sure to fall down. Nothing was done in consequence of these complaints. I heard the fall of the house, and I saw the deceased taken out dead.

In answer to Mr. Burton, the witness further said that some of the bricks of the wall were bulging out, and others bulging in. The parapet of the house was overhanging, and the whole looked dangerous; and, in fact, anyone must have seen that the place was in a dangerous condition. He once went round to the house to see it there, but the friend with whom he went would not stay on witnessing the scene of poverty and distress which was exhibited. It was now fifteen or sixteen months since he spoke to Mr. Ledger and Mr. Clarke, the landlords.

By Mr. Lewis—When I spoke to the landlords they used to go away without answering. As to the other houses adjoining the fallen one, I should be very sorry to live there or pass by them. If the landlords had used proper precautions the accident might, I believe, have been prevented. I said to them when I saw them, "If you don't look to this, there will be a great accident some day." I have known the houses for thirty-five years, and I can say that they have been tenanted by people who could not lay out five shillings. The landlords did nothing except take the rents (A laugh).



THE SHIP-RIGGED BOAT "RED, WHITE, AND BLUE," WHICH RECENTLY CROSSED THE ATLANTIC WITH ONLY TWO PERSONS TO MANAGE HER.

The witness was cross-examined at some length by Mr. James, and he said he could not say that he had pointed out the cracks, but he added anyone, even with bad sight, could have seen the cracks from where he pointed out the dangerous condition of the wall. It was further elicited that the witness had complained about the house in 1863, and that other neighbours had complained.

John Clarkson, clerk to Mr. Porter, the district surveyor of Holborn and East Strand, was called and sworn. He stated that on the 16th of May, 1863, he had an interview with M. Guanziroli, who said something like, "I don't want to be unneighbourly, but what do you think of that wall?" pointing out the house which had fallen. Witness examined the wall rather carefully, as he was in the habit of doing, and replied that he did not think it was a case to be reported to the Commissioners of Police. Could not remember what condition the wall was in at the time. Had seen the place since the accident, and thought the calamity might have resulted from the wall above the corner pier on the first floor giving way. Had heard nothing further about the house.

By Mr. Lewis.—Messrs. Ledger and Clarke had never communicated to the office of the district surveyor anything about the house.

Mr. Lewis then proceeded to inquire about the condition of the other houses held by these landlords, and

Mr. James objected, on the ground that such questions would be injurious to property; to which the first-named gentleman replied that the "property" had been injurious to life.

The witness further said he had seen the material of the fallen house. It was very old, and the timbers of half a million of houses in London were as old. A house, he said, might fall down from some latent defect.

A man who gave the name of William Fox said he had not been summoned, but desired to be sworn. A person in the court, who was pointed out as one of the landlords, made an objection, and told the man to sit down; but this was overruled, and the man was sworn. He deposed that his wife (he being at a job at the time) took a room, a "parlour," in No. 6, and when they got in they found a large hole in the floor. They repeatedly called the agent's attention to it, but it was not mended from the time they went in, in November, until Whit Saturday, and the repair was only done after his wife and the deceased woman Davis had fallen into the hole, and his wife had injured herself for life. The landlords would not do anything to the place, and when he asked them to send a doctor to see his wife's injuries they told him to get an order for the parish doctor. There was a constant rattling, like of mortar, between the wainscoting, and the deceased woman remarked more than once that if they did not get out they should be buried alive.

Robert Moy, a builder, said he knew the house, 6, Ely-court, and he was employed, in November last, to put up a gutter in place of a defective one. He did not see anything the matter with the wall, but he would not swear there were no cracks in it.

Inspector B. Bryant, G division, stated that he was called shortly after the accident, and he was told first that two persons and then that only one was missing. Men were set to work, as far as practicable, for parts of the building were still overhanging, and the number of men set to work was increased from time to time. The bodies were not recovered for several hours, and then life was extinct.

After several other witnesses had been examined, The Coroner put it to the jury whether they would adjourn, or if they desired to hear more evidence. That given, he said, was not such as to make the landlords criminally responsible for the deaths.

Mr. Lewis suggested that the landlords should be called as witnesses, but this was not responded to.

The jury retired, and shortly afterwards returned a verdict of "Accidental death" in both cases, and added the following resolution:—"The jury are of opinion that there was a want of proper attention on the part of the landlords of No. 6, Ely-court (Messrs. Clarke and Ledger), in not replacing the beam or strut which had fallen down sixteen months ago, and which had evidently supported the walls at the side of the house."

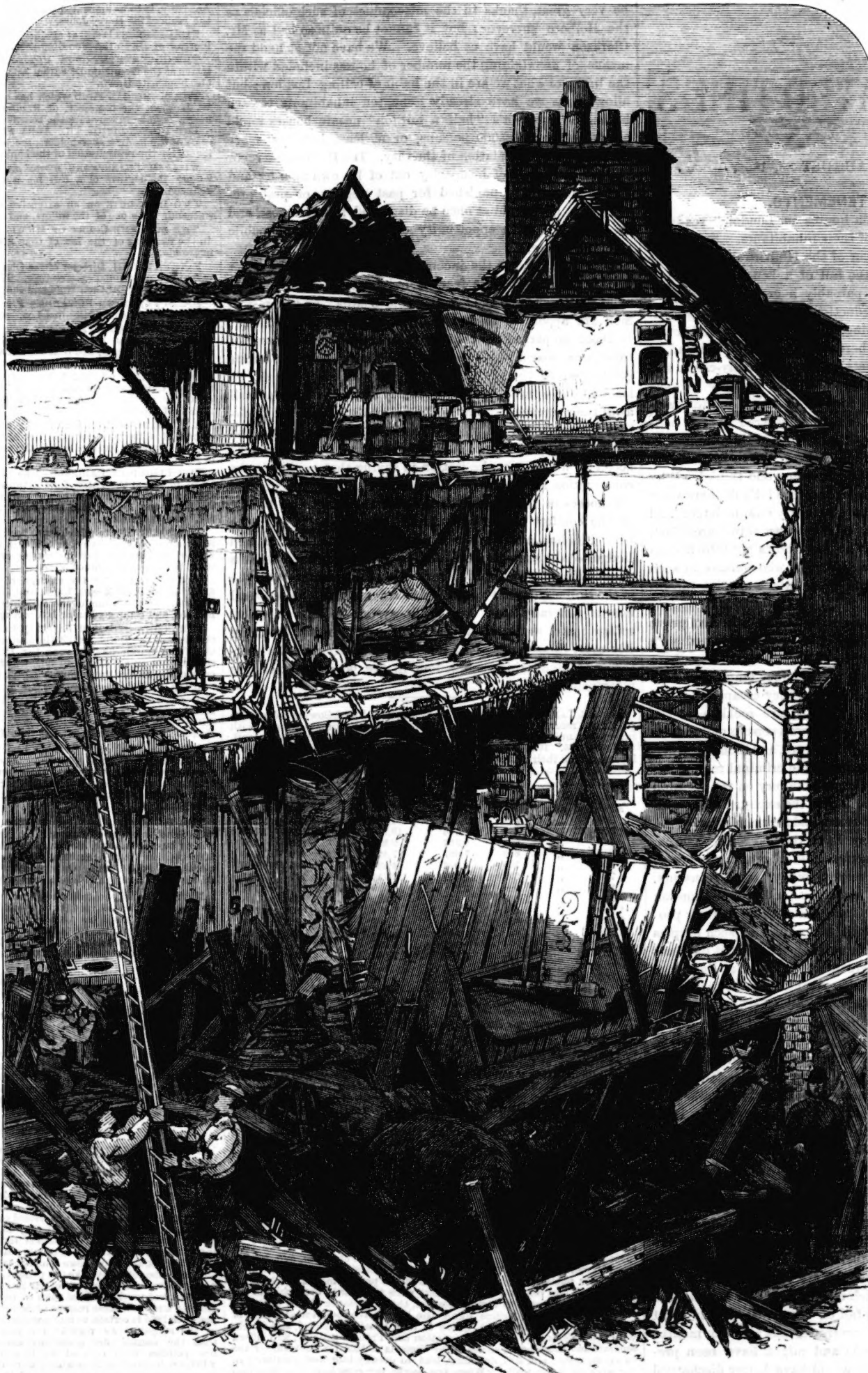
AN ACTOR IN MOBILE has bequeathed his head to the theatre for a "Yorick's skull."

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.

CONSIDERABLE progress has of late been made with the work of restoring Worcester Cathedral, and the result is a notable alteration in the outward appearance of the sacred building. The principal features of restoration now under progress are the tower and the cloisters. The restoration of the south side of the nave (exterior) is now complete, the interior restorations having been finished some time since. The clerestory and aisles are completed, the latter being entirely restored from details of the old windows that have been found. The clerestory is also restored, with new windows, casings, and parapets; as also have been the external parts of the walls, which now present quite a new and unworn appearance. The restoration of the south-cloister passage is also complete. The re-

exception of a few small details, and the placing of the statues in their positions. These will consist of our Lord and the twelve Apostles, of whom two have been placed in position on approval. These are the effigies of St. Matthew and St. Jude, which are executed in yellow Bath stone by Hardman, of Dublin and Birmingham. There will also be ten smaller figures of prophets in niches above the Apostles. The floor of the porch has been lowered 2 ft., in order to show the bases of the pillars, which were formerly hidden under the soil. About 4 ft. of soil had also accumulated round the north side of the cathedral, and this has been removed. An average of 3 ft. of soil has also been removed from the College, or St. Michael's graveyard, adjoining; and the drive round the graveyard to the north porch has been lowered to a level

with the entrance to the cathedral. In levelling the graveyard a few scattered bones, evidently of ancient date, were removed, and one or two coffins which were touched upon were let down to a lower level. It is hoped that, in the course of time, the whole of the houses surrounding this graveyard will be removed, and the space completely thrown open between High-street, the Deanery, and the cathedral. The property, with the exception of two houses, we believe, is now in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. At the present moment a network of scaffolding surrounds the tower, and workmen of repute are actively engaged at a dizzy height in the arduous work of restoration. The pinnacles and upper portion of the tower have been removed, and the restoration of the masonry, &c., of the first stage of the tower above the roof of the body of the cathedral, with its tiers of arches, canopies, buttresses, and pinnacles, has been made good except the carving, and yesterday the workmen entered upon the second, or belfry, stage. There will be a fresh arrangement of the bell-floor, in order to accommodate the new and heavy peal of bells, with electric clock, intended to be placed in the tower. The old and ill-assorted bells have been sold, and the new peal will be placed in position as soon as the tower is finished. This is not likely to be accomplished under a year and a half or two years from the present time. The four new pinnacles will be about 30 ft. high above the battlements of the tower, and will be somewhat different in detail to the old pinnacles. When completed, there will be a perfect and accurate restoration of the whole of the details, sufficient data existing for that purpose. The restoration of the cloisters, now in progress, is certainly not the least interesting of the works that have been so many years under hand. A few months ago the walls, roof, and groining were all daubed over with a coating of plaster and whitewash. This is now in course of removal, and the effect already produced is marvellous, and leaves the spectator to wonder at the barbarity of the disfigurements which these cloisters must at some distant period have undergone. Some of the groings, which are of different coloured stone, are very fine; and a few in white Bath stone, now that they are uncovered, appear almost as perfect as if they were carved a twelve-month ago. The figures are of angels and abbots, with bosses, &c., and some are so dilapidated as to be indistinguishable. The whole are being carefully restored. The north side of the quadrangle is in such a forward state of completion that the visitors to Worcester at the approaching triennial



FALL OF A HOUSE IN ELY-COURT, HOLBORN.

storation of the west end is finished. Prior to the commencement of these works this end of the cathedral was a solid wall with an ugly window in it. An ancient doorway which had been built up—perhaps some time early in the last century—was opened, and a new and beautiful window inserted over it. The window is Early English, and sufficient remains of the shafts and bases of the doorway here were found to found on them a perfect restoration of the whole as it originally stood. Some admirable carvings in stone adorn this doorway. The door itself and elaborate ironwork were the gift of Sir E. A. H. Lechmere. The west front now only wants one more addition to it to make one of the most perfect approaches in the kingdom, and to give a picturesque finish to the whole work. This is a series of terraces and flights of steps leading down to the River Severn, which the west front of the cathedral overlooks at a considerable elevation. The principal entrance to the cathedral by the north porch, opening into the nave towards the west end, has been wonderfully changed in appearance by works now drawing to a completion. The porch is finished with the

musical festival will have a good opportunity of comparing the old with the new. The existing windows are in the most barbarous taste; it is supposed that they have been in position from eighty to ninety years only. They are being replaced by perpendicular windows, in consonance with the style of the rest of the cloisters. The mouldings and details are adopted from some old remains found actually behind the comparatively modern abortions. Three kinds of stone—Bath, Higley, and red sandstone—are used in the interior, and Ombersley stone is used in the restoration of the buttresses and walls of the exterior of the cloisters. On removing the plaster from the roof of the west side of the quadrangle it was found to be in a fearfully dilapidated state. The groings are all cracked, the wall was out of the perpendicular, and apparently only kept from falling by three or four massive flying buttresses placed within the quadrangle. The wall has now been restored to the perpendicular by powerful means. Several doors (blocked up) on this side of the cloisters are supposed to have led to the dormitory and hospitium. One doorway on being opened was

found to lead to a narrow passage in the wall leading up to the old library. This will be made good. When restored, these cloisters will bear comparison with any in the kingdom, not excepting Gloucester. It is right to mention that the restorations are entirely under the superintendence of Mr. Perkins, architect to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester. Mr. Gilbert Scott, R.A., is associated with Mr. Perkins in the rearrangement of the choir, not yet decided upon. The building contractors are Mr. Hughes, of Bristol, for the tower; Messrs. Collins and Cullis, Tewkesbury, for the cloisters; and Wood and Son, Worcester, for the south front.

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UNSAFE TENEMENTS.

"THERE are half a million houses in London" ready to tumble down about the ears of their inhabitants. Such is the statement made by the surveyor of the Holborn district at the inquest on the sufferers by the fall of a house in Ely-court last week. The estimate is palpably a gross exaggeration; but, making a very large deduction indeed, the prospect it opens up is sufficiently alarming, and demands careful consideration. Supposing that there are only 50,000 instead of 500,000 houses in a similar state to the one in Ely-court, and allowing the moderate proportion of ten persons to each house, we have the astounding number of half a million individuals in London who are liable to be smothered in their beds every night in the year. Is not that a state of things sufficient to make even the boldest hold his breath, and to induce even the most careless and most selfish to pause and think? Why and by whose fault is this danger incurred? Fault there must be somewhere; and it is the duty of every one to detect and expose the criminals. Those criminals, we think, are—first, the proprietors, through whose neglect houses get into a dangerous condition; second, the surveyors, who connive at such neglect; and, third, the local boards, which appoint incompetent officers.

We use the word criminals advisedly, for we hold that grave moral if not legal guilt is involved in the occurrence of such catastrophes as that in Ely-court; though we dare say there are many landlords of the Clarke and Ledger stamp who care little for moral responsibility so long as they escape penal and pecuniary consequences—who, in fact, are reckless of the lives and limbs of others so long as their own persons and pockets are safe. But, callous as such persons are, and though the evidence may be "insufficient to bring home criminal responsibility to them," as the Coroner directed the jury on the occasion which has suggested these remarks, still the exposure of the conduct of the landlords of 6, Ely-court, and the ventilation of the case of similar tenements, may have the effect of shaming some landlords into better practices, and of getting the law so altered as to make "criminal responsibility" reach recusants. We doubt not that there are numerous landlords in London who, like Messrs. Ledger and Clarke, do nothing to their property "but take the rents." It is the nature of such harpies so to act. We suppose they cannot help it. But it does not follow that tenants shall be defenceless because landlords are actuated solely by mean selfishness and greed. Like other noxious creatures, they must, for the public good, be restrained in the exercise of their evil propensities; and if the law is not now strong enough to do so, and to punish delinquents, then it is high time the law were strengthened; and that those acts of omission as well as of commission which jeopardise the lives of human beings, should be called by their proper names and dealt with according to their proper merits. We must no longer go on calling events "accidents" which were distinctly foreseen and could easily have been prevented, as was clearly the case as regards this Ely-court catastrophe. We have fallen into a very loose and confused way of speaking of such occurrences—a habit which is most pernicious. Confusion of language leads to confusion of thought; confusion of thought, to confusion of action; and confusion of action invariably ends in disaster. Strictly speaking, there are very few, if any, pure accidents—that is, events which could neither be foreseen nor prevented; and assuredly the fall of the house in Ely-court was not of the number. That occurrence was foreseen months beforehand, and therefore ought and might have been prevented; and we think the jury would have better discharged their duty if, instead of twaddling about an "accident," they had said emphatically that the disaster was the direct result of criminal neglect of duty on the part both of the landlords and of the district surveyor.

That officer, indeed, comes out of the investigation (though the jury condemn him not) in worse case than even the landlords. They only obeyed the grab-all instinct of their tribe. He palpably and grossly neglected his duty; the work for which such officers are appointed being to see that houses are properly constructed and properly maintained. The Holborn district surveyor's attention was called to the unsafe condition of the house in question; he made a pretence of inspecting it, and, though its state was palpable to others, he either could

not or would not see it. He lets matters go on—getting worse and worse, of course, every day—till the disaster occurs, and then maunders about houses falling from "latent defects," as if it were not his special duty to discover such defects, and to guard against their consequences; and excuses himself by stating that "there are half a million houses in London" in a like condition to that of the one in Ely-court, as if his crime were any the less because perhaps a hundred other surveyors are as culpable as himself. It scarcely needed such a statement to prove that the Holborn surveyor was unfit for his post; but that statement puts the point beyond a doubt. It is the wildest talk imaginable, and could only be indulged in by a man utterly ignorant, utterly foolish, or utterly reckless. The insecurity of London may be very great, thanks to the misconduct of such officials as the Holborn surveyor; but it cannot be quite so bad as Mr. Clarkson would have us believe. We have not at hand the means of ascertaining the number of houses included within the limits of what we are in the habit of calling London; but allowing, as we have already done, ten inhabitants to each house, the surveyor's "half a million" unsafe houses would accommodate 5,000,000 persons, or at least 1,000,000 more than the entire population of the City. The Holborn surveyor is thus convicted of incapacity out of his own mouth; and should not only be punished for past neglect, or past presumption, but should at once be dismissed from his post, and so deprived of the opportunity of endangering the public safety in future.

But, having shown the incompetence and criminal neglect of this officer—who, we fear, is only a type of his class—what shall we say to the "honourable boards" by whom such men are appointed to, and allowed to retain, public offices? Is there no part of the culpability to be laid to the charge of those local boards which so successfully mismanage the affairs committed to them? Does not this case—which is no isolated one—prove the incompetency of those boards as well as of their servants? And is the natural inference not this—that the sooner we get rid of these bungling local boards, and devise a really effective system of municipal government, the better? We have no hesitation in saying that neither in the construction nor in the maintenance of a large proportion of the houses in this metropolis is either the safety, the health, or the comfort of the inhabitants cared for as it ought to be. Builders and landlords act like Messrs. Clarke and Ledger—take as much from, and do as little for, their tenants as possible; surveyors are as careless and as incompetent as he of the Holborn district; and local boards are as supine—as local boards generally are. The whole system requires a radical reform; and we hope that this at least will result from the Ely-court catastrophe—that it will help to expedite the overthrow of blundering Bumbledom in the government of this metropolis.

INCOME TAX ON TRADES AND PROFESSIONS.—The following table, compiled from returns just issued, shows the number of persons charged with income tax under Schedule D in the financial years ending the 5th of April, 1864 and 1865. It may be well to mention that railway companies pay the income tax on their dividends under Schedule A, and not Schedule D:—

	Great Britain.		Ireland.	
	1864-5.	1865-6.	1864-5.	1865-6.
Under £100 a year ..	56,882	67,587	5,015	4,703
£100 and under £200 ..	153,120	159,709	6,984	7,826
200 " " 300 ..	41,592	44,498	2,945	2,285
300 " " 400 ..	18,278	19,171	1,100	1,145
400 " " 500 ..	9,313	9,973	523	628
500 " " 600 ..	7,097	7,428	419	490
600 " " 700 ..	4,026	4,293	245	262
700 " " 800 ..	2,849	2,754	187	187
800 " " 900 ..	2,231	2,359	142	134
900 " " 1,000 ..	944	1,070	59	66
1,000 " " 2,000 ..	6,862	7,374	315	342
2,000 " " 3,000 ..	2,103	2,204	112	103
3,000 " " 4,000 ..	1,100	1,138	46	50
4,000 " " 5,000 ..	587	627	19	28
5,000 " " 10,000 ..	1,140	1,283	30	44
10,000 " " 50,000 ..	731	866	23	26
50,000 and upwards ..	91	107	3	3
Amount of income charged with tax	£95,944,222	£106,435,787	£4,368,610	£4,669,976

WINDSOR CASTLE.—During her Majesty's absence from Windsor extensive alterations have been in progress in the north wing of the castle by Messrs. Meyers, of London, under the scientific directions of Mr. Salvin, of the Adelphi. About a dozen rooms looking on to the North Terrace, appropriated to the use of noblemen and equerries in waiting, have been stripped of the boarding and panelling, and redecorated in a style more suitable for the accommodation of the distinguished personages who may occupy them. The improvements extend to the taking down of the present grand staircase at the state entrance, which is used by visitors as they enter the state apartments; a portion of the groined ceiling, being considered out of character with the architecture of the castle, will be taken down and rebuilt. The new grand staircase will be so arranged as almost to reverse its present position. The fine statue in marble of George IV. on the landing will not be removed from the present position.

THE NEW VICTORIA BRIDGE AT BATTERSEA.—The new Victoria Bridge over the Thames, constructed by Messrs. Peto and Betts, from the designs of Sir Charles Fox and Sons, for the London, Chatham, and Dover and London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Companies, has been inspected by Captain Rich, on behalf of the Board of Trade, and, having stood the severe tests applied to it in the most satisfactory manner, will be opened for public traffic about the end of the present month. When it is remembered how constant and vexatious were the delays occurring at the over-crowded entrance to Victoria station, the importance of this work will be understood. The bridge forms the key to the complicated system of high-level lines at Battersea, which is now nearly completed, and which, with the widening of the Victoria station and Pimlico railway, will afford separate and independent access to the Victoria station for the traffic of the two companies; and will, doubtless, lead to greatly-increased regularity in the working of the traffic. When the works are completed the Brighton Company will have three lines of way and the Chatham Company four lines of way over the bridge and into the station.

OUTSIDE THE NEW PALACE AT WESTMINSTER.—One of the bas-reliefs on the pedestal which supports the colossal statue of Richard Cœur de Lion in Palace-yard, the work of Charles Baron Macchietti, is now completed, and is attracting much attention. It is admirably and elaborately executed, representing King Richard a short time before his death lying prostrate on his couch, when Bertrand de Gournon is brought before him, having previously pierced him in the shoulder with an arrow close to the neck whilst Richard was laying siege to the castle of Châlon. On Bertrand being brought into the King's presence, the King cried out, "Wretch! what have I ever done, what injury have you received from me, that you should seek my life? What have you done to me?" The prisoner coolly replied, with an air of bravery, "Why, you killed with your own hands my father and my two brothers, and you intended to have hanged me. I am now in your power, satisfy your revenge. I am prepared to suffer every torment you can inflict. I shall endure them all and die with pleasure, since I have been the instrument to deliver the world from such a tyrant who has filled it with blood and carnage." This spirited reply had a great effect on the mind of Richard, and he forgave the assassin. The other bas-relief will shortly be finished. The statue will be then complete.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

PRINCESS DAGMAR, the fiancée of the Czarowitch of Russia, is to leave Copenhagen for St. Petersburg at the end of next month, and the marriage of the august couple is to be solemnised in November.

THE PRINCE ROYAL OF PRUSSIA is about to visit Hanover and Hesse as Viceroy, to preside over the organisation of the Prussian Administration in those countries.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON spent Sunday in true apostolic fashion. He visited the choicest haunts of the east of London, and preached to the poor suffering people. From hospital to hospital he passed among the sick and the dying, ministering words of comfort everywhere.

GENERAL SIR GEORGE WETHERALL, G.C.B., has been appointed Governor of the Royal Military College in succession to the late Sir Harry Jones. General Wetherall's long and valuable services pre-eminently entitle him to so substantial a reward, while his sagacity and clear judgment, undimmed by age, will no doubt exercise a most beneficial influence on the institution.

MR. THOS. WATTS has been appointed Keeper of the Department of Printed Books in the British Museum, succeeding Mr. Winter Jones, who was recently promoted to the post of Principal Librarian on the resignation of Mr. Panizzi.

MAJOR-GENERAL HENRY SANDHAM, Governor of the Royal Military Academy, is to be appointed a Colonel-Commandant of Royal Engineers, in the room of Sir Harry Jones.

THE OFFENCES last year against the game laws numbered 10,392, being an increase of 275 on the preceding year.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ST. PETERSBURG has at last recalled its representative at the Germanic Diet from Augsburg. The minister for Belgium has also been withdrawn.

THE MEMORIAL FUND which has been raised in honour of the late Mr. W. Jackson, the composer, of Bradford, amounts to above £2000. The money is to be invested for the benefit of Mrs. Jackson and her family.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE AGRA AND MASTERMAN'S BANK, assisted by some of the leading shareholders, are actively engaged in making arrangements for the resuscitation of the bank.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE figures as a citizen of Kalamazoo, Michigan, among the signers of a call for a meeting of the friends of President Johnson.

TWO LOCK-OUTS on an extensive scale took place in Manchester on Saturday last—one of the tailors, and another of the carpenters and joiners.

THE SUPREME COURT OF MICHIGAN has decided that a "white" man, in the meaning of the law of that State, is a man of less than one fourth negro blood.

FATHER SECCHI, Director of the Observatory at the Collegio Romano, has invented a new stellar spectroscope. The spectra produced are remarkable for the brilliancy of their tints and the clear definition of their bands.

MR. SUTHERLAND EDWARDS'S FIRST NOVEL, "The Three Louises," wittily nicknamed "Unlimited Loo," will be published in a day or two.

PROFESSOR SCHULTZEINSTEIN asserts that pure pump, spring, or river water contains an inexhaustible supply of nutriment, that it is the real staple food for plants, and that the knowledge of this is calculated to throw light on many puzzling phenomena in vegetable physiology and culture.

THE OPENING OF THE KALISH CANAL has just taken place. It passes through Cairo, and spreads itself, with its different ramifications, over a great part of the provinces which border the eastern bank of the Damietta branch of the Nile.

A PENALTY of £5 is incurred by a driver, and £10 if the driver is the owner, of a hackney-carriage, not authorised by license to be used on a Sunday, standing for hire within the metropolitan police district or the city of London on a Sunday.

THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE—who thinks that every boy and girl should learn to repeat the Thirty-nine Articles as well as the Catechism—recently asked a youthful scholar if he had read the Thirty-nine Articles. "No," said the boy, "but I have read the 'Forty Thieves.'" "You may stand down, Sir," said the Bishop.

THE STEEL BELLS which have been put up in the Protestant Church of Saint-Antoine, at Friburg, have a fine full sound, and it is thought that bells of this metal will offer a serious competition with those in bronze now used, but which cost much more.

THE CONTRACT for the erection of the Junior Carlton Club has been finally assigned to Messrs. Lucas and Co., who sent in the lowest tender—£35,545. By the terms of the agreement, the works are to be at once commenced, and completed on or before Aug. 1, 1868.

THE SCREW-STEAMER FAIRY QUEEN, laden with cattle, has brought the crew of the Dutch galliot Herman and the master's wife into the Tyne, the Fairy Queen having sunk the Herman off the Tyne on Sunday by striking her on the starboard side, which sank her in a few minutes. The crew of the galliot had a narrow escape from being drowned.

SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT of the manufacture of locomotives in Newcastle, nearly 8000 of them have been made in that district, and of these upwards of 1000 have been exported. Taking the average cost at £2000 each, it would result that the value of this branch of manufacture to Newcastle alone has been not less than £16,000,000.

A RATHER AMUSING LIST has been issued of articles left by the volunteers behind them at Wimbledon. Altogether above one hundred articles remain to be claimed, amongst them being a small tent and any number of eyeglasses, spectacles, and telescopes. Some one seems to have lost nineteen keys without missing them, or at all events applying for them, for a fortnight.

THE FOLLOWING ADVERTISEMENT appears in a New York paper:—"To Schoolmasters.—To be sold, a thrashing-machine, in good working order; has birch, cane, and strap barrels; warranted to whip a school of fifty boys in twenty minutes, distinguishing their offences into literary, moral, and impertinent. Only parted with because the owner has flogged all his school away and his sons are too big to beat."

NAPOLEON III., according to a story current, when leaving Vichy, called for Léon, his old valet, and, having handed a sealed packet to him, told him the parcel contained the title-deeds of the chalet and grounds he had just quitted, and which the Emperor has inhabited during his successive visits. "You are a landlord now," said his master to Léon, "and I hope that you will accept me next year as your tenant, at the rate of 20,000*fr.* rent. I shall pay regularly."

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH appeared in a French paper last week:—"A person committed suicide at an hotel at Florence. The head was completely severed from the body. A paper was found near the body containing these words: 'Do not accuse anyone of my death. I have committed suicide by my own hand. Do not seek my head; I have hidden it, in order not to be recognised.'"

SOME EXTRAORDINARY WEATHER was experienced in Scotland last week. In addition to severe rain, thunder, and lightning, there was a two hours' storm of hail, that stripped the trees and destroyed corn, shrubs, and flowers. The hailstones averaged five eighths of an inch in length, and they lay upon the ground in places 3 ft. deep. The country is said to look as desolate as in midwinter.

INSURANCE INSTITUTIONS.—At the recent annual meeting of the shareholders of the Royal Insurance Company some valuable remarks were made by the chairman, and other directors, on the principles of insurance generally, and on the paramount importance of the proper balance being maintained by the managers of such institutions between the shareholders on the one hand and the insurers on the other, so that neither should make an unfair profit; and the views expressed on this occasion will doubtless receive much consideration, coming, as they do, from such experienced and competent authorities as the directors of the "Royal." It is a well-known fact that many causes have arisen of late years to make the business of insurance (especially against fire) more complicated than it ever was before, and in a time of some difficulty, like the present, it is very satisfactory to meet with a candid exposition from one of our largest and most successful offices of the soundest and most beneficial rules to be observed in conducting insurance affairs; and from these reasons alone the report of the Royal Insurance Company for 1865 is certain to command largely the attention of all interested in the subject. As regards the progress of the Royal itself we find that the annual fire premiums amount to £414,000, and that new life policies were effected in 1865 for £586,000, besides a sum of £189,000 declined on lives which were deemed ineligible. It appears also that during the first six months of 1866 a further sum of half a million sterling has been assured on new life cases. At the end of 1865 the life and annuity funds were over £740,000, and it is considered probable that in ten years' time they will reach nearly £2,000,000. The total annual revenue of the company now much exceeds £600,000.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR GROTE.—We announce with regret the demise of the Rev. John Grote, B.D., Professor of Moral Philosophy in Cambridge University, and one of the senior Fellows of Trinity College, who expired at the vicarage at Trumpington, on Tuesday last. The deceased, who was fifty-three years of age, graduated at Trinity College in 1835, the year when Dr. Cotterell, Bishop of Grahamstown, was senior wrangler, Mr. Goulburn being second wrangler, second classic, and second Smith's (mathematical) prizeman. Mr. Grote was second senior optime in the mathematical tripos (bracketed) and sixth classic. He was soon after elected Fellow of this college, and continued so to his death, when he was fourth in seniority. He was elected to the professorship of Moral Philosophy in 1855, on the resignation of the late Dr. Whewell, and occupied the chair to his death. In 1847 he was presented by the Society of Trinity College to the vicarage of Trumpington. The immediate cause of death was an affection of the lungs, brought on by a severe attack of diphtheria, experienced about three months ago.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

WHY do we not prosecute and punish severely men guilty of bribery at elections? I do not mean the receivers but the givers of bribes. In 1819, a member named Swan was fined and imprisoned for bribery at Penryn; and, in the same year, Sir Manasseh Lopez was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and fined £10,000 for bribery at Grampound. This was right; and if we had steadily pursued that course we should long ago have extinguished bribery. Committees of the House of Commons are useless. Here is the proof. There was a petition against the return of Sir Edward Lacon and Mr. Goodson for Great Yarmouth; but it failed, although it was well-known and proved that large sums of money were expended in bribing the electors. It failed because so cunningly were the bribery operations performed. There was no proof available that the candidates, or their legal agents, gave the bribes; but it was known who did give them. And why were these men not prosecuted at once? Unless we can make bribery infamous we shall never stop it; and nothing will be so likely to make it infamous as imprisonment. If it were once to become pretty certain that the briber would be punished with imprisonment for a year or so in the common gaol, with hard labour and nothing but prison fare, I will venture to assert that bribery would be soon stopped. At present bribing is not considered infamous—Parliament does not consider it so. It has not stamped it with infamy. We often hear the bribed denounced there—they have no friends; but nobody arises to denounce the briber, and yet he is infinitely the worst of the two. There are, no doubt, honourable men in the House who look upon bribery as a great crime; but generally it is viewed as a mere venial offence—something quite excusable under the circumstances; and this view extensively prevails in the upper ranks of society. There are clubs which will not elect tradesmen. There are others that turn up their noses at attorneys; but there is no club that would refuse to elect a lord because he had been guilty of bribery. But if we could catch a lord bribing, send him to gaol, crop his hair, clothe him in a prison dress, and make him pick oakum for a year, lords and gentlemen would cease to bribe. It would then become a crime, you know; and, though lords and gentlemen may indulge in vices with impunity, they must not commit crimes—as my Lord Somebody says in one of Bulwer's novels. You will observe that I have said little about the bribed; and I have little to say in the way of reprobation. I have always held that the sin of a poor man who receives is as nothing to the sin of the gentleman who gives a bribe. A poor man, perhaps much in want of a few pounds—to pay his rent, probably; or it may be, indeed, to provide food for his family—can hardly be expected to resist the temptation to sell his vote for a sum which to him is actually wealth, especially when all his poor neighbours are taking money for their votes, and a "gentleman" offers the money.

But I am not at all sure that the Attorney-General, or anybody else, can now prosecute the Yarmouth bribers; for, by an Act of Parliament, 15 and 16 Vict., cap. 57, all persons giving evidence before a Royal Commission is indemnified, provided the Commissioners give them a certificate of indemnification; and it seems to be the spirit of the Act that, if the witness makes a clean breast of it, the certificate can hardly be withheld. Surely this is a bad law. It seems to be intended to enable the Commissioners to discover the guilt of the borough that it may be punished, whereas what we want is a law to punish the man who made the borough guilty. Poor Eve is to be punished; but the serpent who tempted her to sin and confesses his guilt is indemnified.

Sir Edward Henry Knowles Lacon, Bart., is a brewer and banker at Yarmouth. He was first elected in 1852. In 1857 he and the Hon. Charles Smyth Vereker were defeated by Mr. Watkin and Mr. Torrens McCullagh. This election was declared void on petition, and Mr. Adolphus Young and Mr. Mellor were elected. In 1859 Sir Edward and Sir H. Stracey beat Messrs. Watkin and Young; and in 1865 Sir Edward and Mr. Goodson, formerly chairman of the Great Eastern Railway, defeated Mr. Alexander Brogden and Mr. Vanderbilt. The latter gentleman now sits for the immaculate borough of Bridgewater; he was a physician, but is now a City merchant.

As I lounged along the Strand the other day, after I had taken a friendly glass of sherry and lunched with you, Mr. Editor, I was tempted to purchase a copy of Routledge's new and marvellously cheap edition of the "Curiosities of Literature," by the elder Disraeli, a book I had long wished to possess. Only think! Disraeli's "Curiosities of Literature," beautiful printed, for 8s. Well; having secured my treasure, I naturally, when I got into the park, sat down to examine it, and it so happened that I opened upon the chapter on political nicknames; and as I read it came into my mind that the Session just ended has been remarkable for the rise of a new political nickname, which will probably become historic, and that some remarks upon this rather rare event might be interesting to the readers of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES. The nickname which I allude to is "the Adullamites." And now, a few words upon the opprobrious appellation with which Mr. Bright has stamped the malcontent Liberals who, led by Mr. Lowe, voted against, and ultimately threw out, the Reform Bill and the Government. The Cave Adullam is first mentioned in 1 Sam. xxii. 1, 2. David, when he was fleeing from Saul, went over to Gath, in Philistia; but, finding that he was not safe there, he fled to the Cave Adullam. And it is recorded that there "everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became captain over them." The point, and appropriateness, and sting of the analogy between the old Adullamites and the new lies in the words in italics. In David's company there were, one can imagine, many young men who felt that they had been neglected in the Court of Saul; and you will remember that it was said, or shrewdly thought, that there were amongst our Adullamites many who fretted, and fumed, and were distressed and discontented because when Earl Russell formed his Government they were neglected and passed by. But perhaps there is a more subtle analogy. David and his friends were outcasts, and two courses were before them. They could go over to the Philistines, but this course was repugnant to them. They were still Israelites, though not of Israel, and so they determined to form an independent party. And as with the old so with the new Adullamites. They, too, might go over to the Philistines, but were not prepared for so extreme a policy; and they, too, determined to set up for themselves. At all events, no sooner was the nickname out of Mr. Bright's lips than it was received with acclamation as singularly appropriate; and, to use a short but forcible word, stuck, and probably will stick and become historic.

But will this nickname always be opprobrious? In answering this question Disraeli's short essay becomes useful to us, for he shows us that almost all political designations were once opprobrious, but afterwards were assumed voluntarily by those who were nicknamed, and came to be thought by them good if not honourable appellations. He gives us many instances; but I shall only notice the nicknames Tory and Whig. The word Tory is Irish, and designated a band of robbers; and it was used first by the "Outs," the country party, to designate the "Ins," the Court party, in the reign of James II. The word Whig, or Whigg, is Scotch; it is the name of the Scotch beverage sour milk. "You are Tory robbers!" shouted the "Outs." "You are sour, grumbling, discontented Whigs," retorted the "Ins." And these nicknames stuck. But the sense soon changed; for presently Tory came to mean an adherent of the House of Stuart, and Whig meant a supporter of the Hanoverian succession; and subsequently, when all the nation had accepted the house of Hanover, the meaning changed again, and a Tory was one who supported Church and State and generally opposed all change, while Whig was applied to the Reformers of the day; and now, those who were called by these names, so far from thinking them opprobrious nicknames, assumed them voluntarily, and even gloried in them, and we had Tory clubs and Whig clubs; and the Whigs went so far as to adopt a Whig costume—blue coat, bright buttons, and buff waistcoat—which costume the founders of the Whig Edinburgh Review imitated as well as they could by clothing their numbers with blue

sides and buff back, and then the opprobrious nickname came to be a title of honour. Sir Robert Peel, after the Reform Bill, thought to abolish the title of Tory, and substitute for it Conservative, and, in a measure, he succeeded; but it will have been seen that the present leader of the Conservative party seems to be desirous to revive the old name.

And, now I am gossiping on the subject of political and party names, let me say a word or two on the designation Radical. This word comes from the Latin word *radix*, root. Early in this century some of our politicians used to be constantly talking about radical reform—that is, an uprooting of an abuse; which would be surely a good thing, if it could but be achieved. Indeed, the abuse being proved, one would think this is the thing that ought to be done with it. Hence, these gentlemen were called "Radicals," at first opprobriously. This, however, like other words, has lost much of its opprobrium; but in my boyish days I was taught to look upon Radicals as very dreadful people, who would, if they could, root up Throne, and Church, and Constitution, and not scruple, to accomplish this, to burn and slay, and, in short, bring upon us all the horrors of the French Revolution. When I was once going home from school, with satchel over my shoulder, by a short cut through an inn yard, I saw a soldier—one of a regiment on its way to the disturbed districts in the north—sharpening his sword on a grindstone, I watched him curiously; and, when he had finished, heard him say, "There! Now I'm ready for the Radicals;" and very delighted I was to learn that the brave soldier was going to kill those dreadful people. Long after this the Radicals were never named by the Tories but with contempt. "Radical rascals who had nothing to lose," was the designation generally applied to them. And now, with a little anecdote, I will finish my gossip about party names. "You Radical rascals have nothing to lose," said a fat, purse-proud Alderman to a spare man who professed to be a Radical. "No," repeated the latter, "we don't want anything—to lose."

What a mighty pity it is that there are so many people in the world who will not let well alone! Here are two parties raking up that unhappy Jamaica business, with no possible result but to make a bad odour more intolerable still. The insurrection was suppressed—somewhat harshly; for if the events that followed were necessary they were, at the very best, a most painful necessity. It is therefore, I think, bad taste on the part of ex-Governor Eyre's friends to challenge further comment and sterner judgment on his conduct by thrusting his case unnecessarily upon public notice. The dinner at Southampton, on Tuesday evening, was a most indiscreet thing. If a favourable expression of opinion on Mr. Eyre's conduct was thought indispensable, surely some more appropriate means of eliciting it might have been found than a public banquet. Just conceive the spirit in which the toasts were drunk when the toasters must have had in their memories the executions which took place in retribution for the massacre at Morant Bay Courthouse! Mr. Eyre's friends would have exhibited better taste had they abstained from offering him a public dinner; and, assuredly, Mr. Eyre would have acted more wisely in declining than in accepting such a tribute. On the other hand, the Jamaica Defence Committee, in my judgment, show small wisdom in keeping up the irritation about the events in Jamaica, and in following Mr. Eyre with what impartial persons will be apt to think vindictiveness. The late Governor of Jamaica has been condemned, dismissed from his office, and disgraced. Surely, these visitations might be accepted as punishment enough for what were at most errors of judgment, not of design. Better, much better, would it be were both parties to let matters rest where they are, and enable us as soon as possible to forget one of the most painful incidents in our history.

Who says that art is not sufficiently recognised in England now? Have not all the journals, leading or misleading, been expatiating on the marriage—or perhaps I ought to be fashionable and say nuptial ceremony—of "Lady Rose Sophia Mary Fane, only sister of the Earl of Westmoreland, C.B., and Mr. Henry Weigall, the eminent portrait-painter?" Haven't we read the list of wedding gifts presented by the Queen of Prussia, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Beaufort, and Mr. Cockerell? Besides, we have been thrilled by "the effect of four harps played behind the screen" in a chorale. Indeed, art ought to feel flattered: there's Sir Edwin Landseer, and now an eminent portrait-painter has married the sister of an Earl! It quite reminds me of Mrs. Browning's Lady Geraldine, and sets me wondering if the story is as romantic. I must confess, however, that the prospect of such brilliant careers for our artists is not to me altogether unclouded. It is possible that a young painter of great promise, dazzled by a sudden access of wealth and an entrée into the cream of society, might desert his art and rob the world of mighty pictures. As far as it has gone at present there is not much harm done. Art would not be irretrievably injured if next year Mr. Weigall's pencil did not assist in swelling the long list of feeble portraits of nobodies. But I sincerely trust our high-born beauties will not make further descents on the studios. Rather than deprive England of her painters, I could bear to see them bestow their hands on a Lounger!

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

The *Fortnightly Review* for the 15th of this month is an excellent number. Mr. Patterson, in a vigorous paper entitled "The War of the Banks," insists upon the very serious imminence of this question, and points out the way to end it. These discount fights in time of panic only lessen trade; they bring in no specie. The proper course, Mr. Patterson contends, is to abolish the Bank monopoly; to have a guarded, but still elastic, paper currency—the Act of 1844 being abolished; and also to have a real Bank of Europe, an international bank—a clearing-house, perhaps I may venture to call it, for the whole finance of Europe. My own opinion, wretched Lounger that I am, must go for almost nothing on such matters; but I think I know a principle when I see one, which way it points, and what is on its line and what is off its line; and so I will dare to say *ditto* to Mr. Patterson.

Mr. E. A. Bond has been examining some scraps of parchment attached to the covers of an old MS. in the British Museum, and has found, in the long-unnoticed fragments, traces of no less a man than Geoffrey Chaucer—not many names dearer to a true Briton, I hope, than his. So we are all glad of these new facts about him—glad to find that he had "the benefit of society of the highest refinement, in personal attendance on a young and spirited prince of the blood," and all the rest of it—for which the reader is referred to the *Review* itself. These parchment leaves contain portions of certain household accounts of the years 1356 to 1359, and among the items put down is one of seven shillings (equal to about £5 of our money) for a suit of clothes for Chaucer. Think of that!

Mr. Tylor, in "The Religion of Savages," is as thoughtful, as ingenious, and as interesting as he knows how to be, and introduces the nice new word Animism, to indicate the habit which vivifies with a personal will the phenomena of nature. The prospects of the Danubian Principalities, and of Panславism outside of Russia, are discussed in a full, informing, and temperate article, signed "Adam Gielgud." The political and social summary—always good—is this month particularly so.

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The revival of "Mother Goose" at SADLER'S WELLS has been the event of the week, dramatically speaking. Every schoolboy knows that this pantomime was written by Tom Dibdin and played by Joe Grimaldi almost sixty years ago. Its reproduction is, therefore, a study for antiquaries, especially as it is placed upon the stage in the old style and performed according to the traditions of the old manner: One of the original actors, Mr. Tom Matthews (who danced as a little boy under the auspices of Grimaldi), has undertaken the task of resurrection, and has fulfilled it thoroughly. The scenery, the music, the dresses are all made as nearly identical as possible; and the audience laughed at the fun just as much as their ancestors laughed before them. The arrangement of the piece is much more simple than that of contemporary pantomimes; it affords little scope for scenery and not much for dresses. But the comic scenes really are what

they profess to be—i.e., comic. A red-hot poker is included among the dramatis personæ; the clown makes the funniest faces and wears the biggest pockets in the world; and the columbine is a very charming girl who calls herself Miss Hetty Brandon whenever she happens to be outside the walls of Sadler's Well's Theatre. A precocious lady-dancer (nine or ten years old) went through the sailor's hornpipe in a style that won the entire house; and a scene in which the clown is haunted by a skeleton produced roars of laughter. With this particular scene there is only one fault to be found, the clown should not *speak*. Mr. Grimaldi went through it in dumb-show, and it would be funnier if played quietly. The house was well filled; and surely a couple of melodramas and a pantomime should fill any house, even in August.

At the OLYMPIC Master Percy Roselle has been playing for the last few nights in "The Spoilt Child." The piece is rather coarse; but Messrs. Maclean and Soutar support the juvenile prodigy with effect, and everybody laughs and applauds. The attendance is better at this theatre than it was at the inauguration of the present management. A tragedian of colour is to play Othello here to-night. It is as well, in speaking about the Olympic, to make as serious a protest as possible against the inveterate tendency towards "gag" shown by one of the leading members in the company. The late Mr. Wright made the Adelphi inaccessible to all respectable women through his insane indulgence in this habit; and Mr. Vincent threatens to do as much for the Olympic. As an actor he is not at all bad; but as an original talker he is, judging from samples, beneath contempt. Is Mr. Vincent aware that a good many hearers father all his indecencies upon the authors of "Six Years After" and "High Life Below Stairs"?

A LOUNGER IN DUBLIN.

It may, perhaps, seem startling to state that a business man of London may travel thence to Dublin, spend there two days and a night, and yet only take half a day's holiday from his ordinary avocations. But the solution of the paradox is simple and practicable. Start by the night mail on Friday, and return by the night mail on the following Sunday. This will arrive in London before business hours on the Monday. The Saturday is only a half-day for business in London, and, of course, the Sunday is not to be reckoned for labour. The journey each way occupies about twelve hours. I beg to offer a few bits of information picked up during such an excursion during the last few days. Fenianism was making no sign. Trade was recovering, but was still much depressed by the 10 per cent discount. The news of the reduction of this was received with much joy. The news-shops, in addition to the ordinary well-known Dublin prints, exhibit two new and peculiar periodicals. One is called *The Ghost of Watty Cox*, and pretends to be an organ of the national party. The articles advocate an exclusive encouragement of Irish talent, art, and manufactures. No seditious or Fenian sentiments are expressed; but with one of the numbers (there are but two issued as yet) is a cartoon, representing in its foreground John Bull as a bloated tyrant, supported by a demon labelled "Orangeism" and countless troops of soldiers and artillerymen, keeping an Irishman prostrate while Erin vainly appeals for mercy. Opposite are a few badly-armed patriots. In the background are battalions of Irish and American soldiers, while Canada is seen unprotected. The obvious meaning of this is evaded by the printed explanation, which suggests that America, for some unexplained reason, is keeping the Irish from Canada. But why is the paper called the "Ghost of Watty Cox"? Who was he? The Editor himself admits he has received some dozen inquiries on this point, and he is ashamed of his readers' ignorance, which he promises to dispel next month. Meanwhile I may mention that from the "Sham Squire" I gather that Watty Cox was a gunsmith, who, having witnessed some of the scenes of '98, when his father was tortured, resolved upon becoming author, and afterwards carried on a "patriotic" magazine from 1807 to 1814. He suffered imprisonment and the pillory; but, as these amenities failed to secure his adhesion to the Government, it was suggested to Sir Arthur Wellesley that it would be well to buy up Watty Cox, who was represented as "the most able and if not secured the most formidable man in Ireland," and bought up he was accordingly. The other periodical is called *Paddy Kelly's Budget of Fun*, and is not a pretty paper for a penny. From the few quotable passages I extract one very funny bit of bathos in reference to

the National League,
Whose members scarce rose to their legs
When, as a reward for their subtle intrigue,
They were hooted and pelted with eggs.

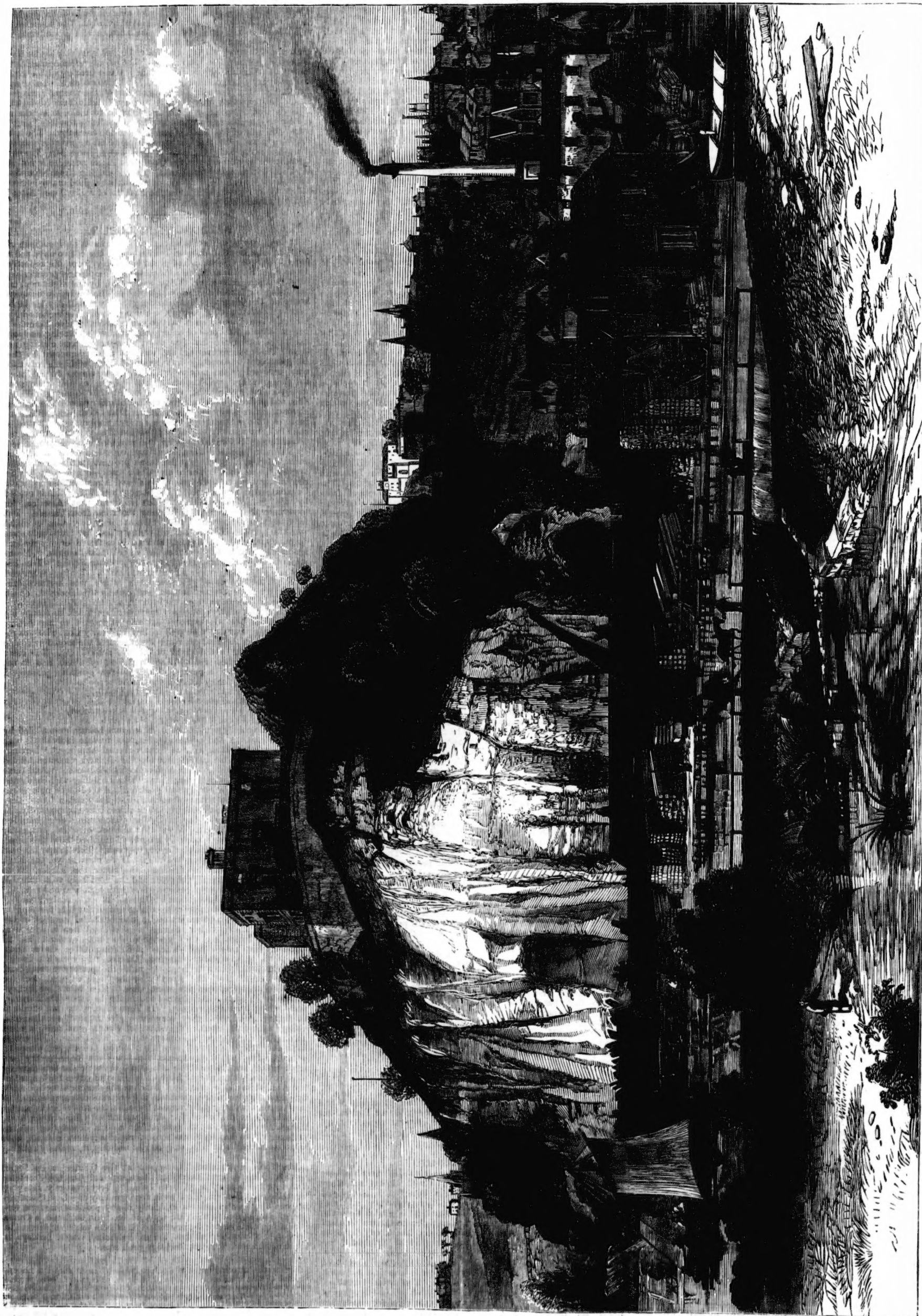
The residue chiefly consists of light, elegant banter, exemplified by giving the names and addresses of certain private individuals with playful epithets attached, as "curly-headed humbug," "herring-mouthed cod" (Dublin slang for blockhead), and "mutton-headed blubber," and accusing them of disgraceful behaviour. "And these persons," said a friend to me, "are in all probability well-conducted young gentlemen of family and position." An editorial note warns "subscribers whose terms of subscription have expired" that they will probably form subjects for attack unless they pay promptly.

They have a curious way in Dublin of rendering dogs harmless without muzzling them. They affix a block of wood, just easily portable, to each dog's neck by a cord. I inquired how this acted. "Well, you see, the neck of the dog is weak. This keeps his head low, and then he cannot well bite. If he runs at ye, the block keeps banging against his forelegs—the faster the harder. If he contrives to bite after all, the block and the cord help ye to strangle him. He carries his own gallows about with him, and he knows it."

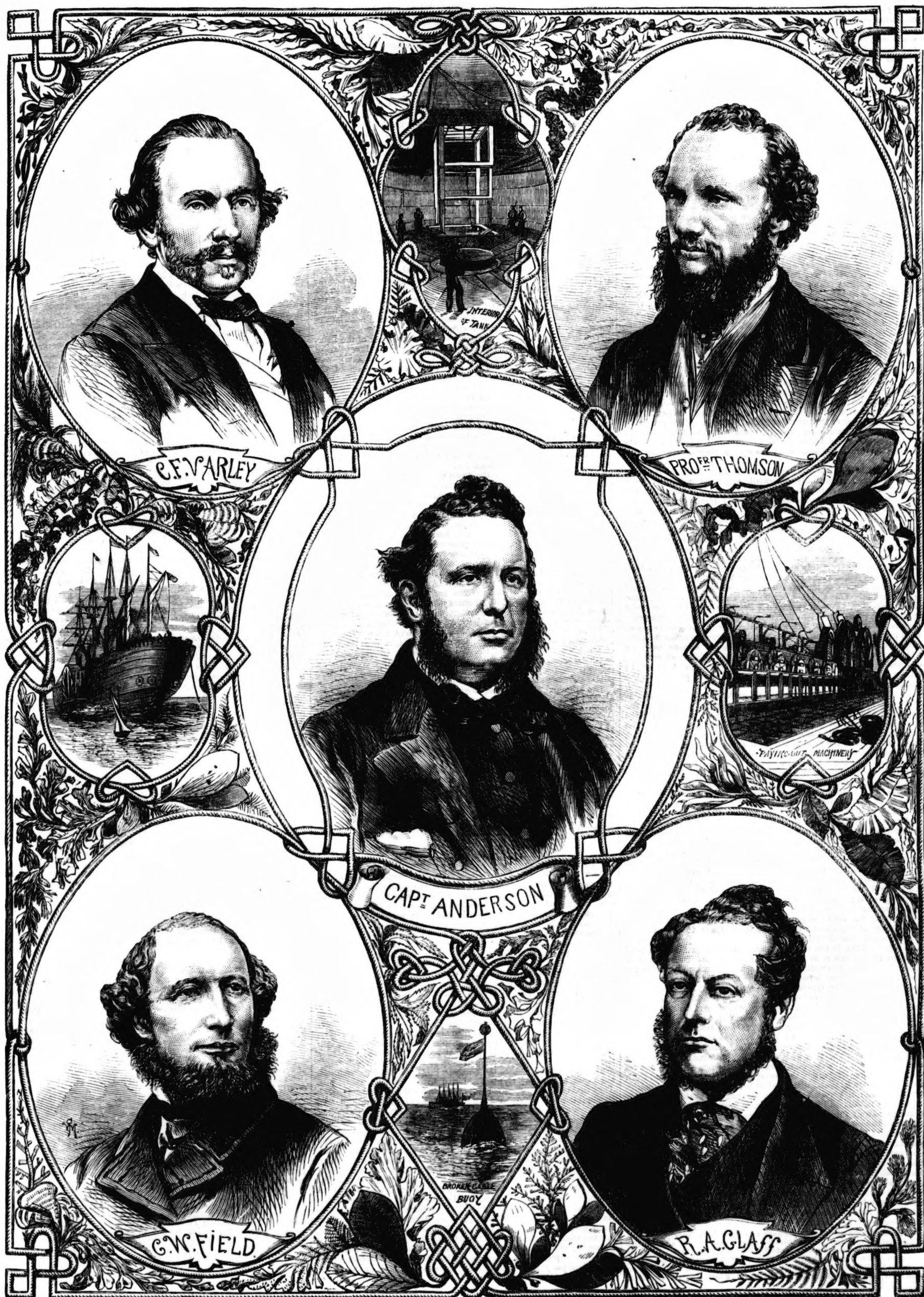
Every visitor to Dublin knows "Jude's." It is the local "Evans's." The great enjoyment appears to consist not so much in the singing or dancing of the performers as in the healthful exercise of the auditory. Every visitor carries a stick. When a successful performer concludes, the audience do not applaud as in London, but raise their sticks and bring them down upon the tables in a running banging, like the "independent firing" of a battalion. This is kept up until the performer reappears, and, in order that the sport may be well enjoyed, he (or she) does not reappear for some time. The tables are honey-combed with dints. All this is done in the best possible humour, and even with some solemnity. In Term time, when the students of Trinity are in town, they sometimes give regular, simultaneous volleys with great effect. They have at Jude's, just now, a most accomplished "nigger," who plays some curious tricks. He enters with a white eye, supposed to be the result of the nigger visage of a fight. He tears a newspaper into the form of a pretty lace work-basket, and another into two skeletons, which he sets dancing most comically by means of his breath. He delivers a burlesque lecture on anatomy, illustrated by a sketch of the osseous structure made by himself in less than a minute. He becomes eloquent as well as instructive, and, after pointing out the shoulder-blades at the ankles and the ribs at the top of the skull, warms with his subject until, thwacking his screen to give effect to his description of the "tummy," he knocks down screen, skeleton, easel and all, over balances himself and falls, only to rise and depart, ruefully rubbing his nose.

Mr. Toole is announced to appear at the theatre in Dublin on Sept. 3. He is a great favourite there, especially in the character of the Artful Dodger, in "Oliver Twist." Very strangely, this play is prohibited in London. How, even the ingenuity of a Lord Chamberlain can discover incentives to felony in any possible dramatic version of Mr. Dickens's tales, or why, if such can be found, a drama exhibiting them should be permitted in Dublin while suppressed in London, is a puzzle to all but the official mind, which, perhaps, is not so constituted as to acknowledge problems.

GOVERNOR HUMPHREY, of Mississippi, has announced that the lunatic asylums of that State are crowded with negroes, whose minds have become deranged in consequence of the excitement of the war and the changes and privations consequent upon their sudden transfer to a condition of freedom and responsibility. There is immense insanity also among white people throughout the South, caused by the excitement and afflictions of the war.



NOTTINGHAM, THE MEETING PLACE OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.



THE HEROES OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLE.

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION AT NOTTINGHAM.

The thirty-sixth annual meeting of the British Association, whose object is "to give a stronger impulse and more systematic direction to scientific inquiry, to promote the intercourse of those who cultivate science in different parts of the British empire with one another and with foreign philosophers, to obtain more general attention to the objects of science and the removal of any disadvantages of a public kind which impede its progress," commenced at Nottingham on Wednesday, under favourable auspices. Time was when the sturdy pioneers of scientific investigation had to pursue their researches and their labours in the solitary garret or the cloistered cell—well for them if it were not actually within the prison walls. But in these days professors are not only free to study as they list, but when they meet, once a year or oftener, in the light of day and on the public platform, to exchange greetings and to discuss the progress made since their last muster; society rises to do them honour; fêtes are organised, and wherever they go they are welcomed and lionised. This year circumstances lead the association to visit Nottingham, and there is every prospect of a successful meeting. The town can hardly be spoken of as rich in public buildings; but with judicious arrangements those edifices which do exist are capable of being turned to good account, and the local committee seemed to have exerted themselves most creditably with that end in view. One central feature in Nottingham which never fails to excite admiration is the Market-place, a well-paved triangular area of five acres and a half, celebrated as long ago as the reign of Henry VIII., "for the buildings on the side of it, the very great wideness of the streets, and the clean paving of it, as the fairest, without exception, of all England."

In its present aspect the market is surrounded with lofty and well-built houses, the fronts of which nearly all project over the basement story, and, being supported by massive pillars, form long piazzas, under which are the shops, many of them with considerable pretensions to opulence. In the act of crossing the noble area one is tempted to forget for the moment that it is not a Continental place, and to feel half angry with the spacious front of the Exchange for lacking that quaint tracery and elaborate carving which distinguish the townhalls of the Pays-Bas. At short distances from the principal streets, which are all remarkably clean and orderly, innumerable factories may be seen—not huge clumsy, sooty erections, like those of Manchester, but tall, cheerful, red brick buildings, with some attempt at architectural display. Nottingham, however, is mainly, if not exclusively, dependent for prosperity on its lace manufacture, and latterly trade has been the reverse of brisk. The state of the money market has exercised a further depressing effect; so that the visit of the British Association is looked forward to by many not merely as a pleasurable event in itself, but with hopeful sensations on account of the expenditure that it will occasion. To judge, however, from the bearing of the inhabitants, no one would imagine that distress or suffering existed. In the evening especially the streets are filled with comfortably if not with well-dressed persons, and the prevalent air is that of cheerfulness and content. The peculiar character of the industrial manufactures, the close proximity of large mining and other important works to the town, and the interesting geological features of the surrounding district, all justify the choice which the association made of a place of meeting this year.

The great hall of the exchange, a room 75 ft. long, 30 ft. wide, and 35 ft. high, beautifully decorated, and used ordinarily for a variety of purposes, such as concerts, balls, public meetings, and exhibitions, will be devoted during the stay of the savans to the purposes of a central refreshment-room. A successful engagement at the theatre has been interrupted to provide an area sufficiently large for the evening meetings and lectures of the fortnight. The people of Nottingham are justly proud of their theatre, which was erected only a year ago, and, internally, is among the best proportioned in the kingdom, though externally a deviation from the original plan has certainly not been attended with a happy effect. Probably the preparations at the Working Men's Exhibition building are entitled to rank as the most meritorious feature in the general arrangements. This building, which originally was only intended to be temporary, has been secured for the town, and has been fixed upon as the place where two soirées will be held, and is receiving comprehensive additions. The walls of the gallery have been covered with paintings, photographs, &c., lent by gentlemen resident in the neighbourhood; and to the original building an annexe has been added, in which the elaborate arrangements of artificial rockwork and cascades, flowers, shrubs, and ferns, when illuminated, as they are to be, by the electric light, can hardly fail to afford pleasure to the guests of the evening.

There is a hearty desire amongst the authorities and the inhabitants generally to promote a successful meeting, and, from the appearance of the inauguration, there is a fair prospect of the realisation of the best wishes of the friends of the association. The number of members and associates up to Tuesday night was 1290, being 700 short of the total at the great meeting at Birmingham last year, and that number is of course exclusive of the very considerable augmentation of the lists by new comers on this and following days. In point of attractiveness there will be no falling off. The names of nearly all the scientific men most closely identified with the British Association are amongst those present, and there are one or two "lions" of the favourite African traveller type, who will give special interest to the meeting. Sir Samuel Baker, now the guest of Mr. Webb, at Newstead, will, it is expected, read a paper before the geographical section, and will also contribute some observations on the ethnology of the regions near the source of the Nile.

Early in the afternoon a meeting of the general committee was held in the Mechanics' Hall, a new and well-constructed building, the use of which is described by its name. It contains a well-stocked library and museum and a large assembly-room, in which the general meeting was held. The principal business was the receiving of the Parliamentary and new committees—the former regretting that science is still neglected in the teachings of public schools and the latter suggesting the propriety of confiding the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade to the management of some scientific body.

At eight o'clock in the evening there was a large assemblage of members in the theatre to hear the address of Mr. Grove, the new president. The proceedings were, as usual, inaugurated by the exchange of courtesies between Professor Phillips, the late president, and his successor, Mr. Grove, who thereupon took the chair. The learned gentleman then delivered the inaugural address. He commenced by speaking of the surprise which our rude ancestors would feel if they could rise and see our country in its present state. The immense progress which had been made between their time and ours had all been effected step by step, and it would be difficult to trace its causes. He looked upon the growth of associations such as that with which they were connected as being one great cause of the rapid advance in science. In its annual visits to different localities, the association not only imparted fresh local knowledge to the visitors, but left behind stimulating memories which roused into permanent activity dormant or timid minds. He wished to submit to his audience certain views of what had within a comparatively recent period been accomplished by science, what had been the steps leading to the attained results, and what, as far as he might fairly form an opinion, was the general character pervading modern science. He then proceeded to show that the development of observational, experimental, and even deductive knowledge was either attained by steps so extremely small as to form really a continuous ascent, or, when distinct results apparently separate from any co-ordinate phenomena had been attained, that then, by the subsequent progress of science, intermediate links had been discovered uniting the apparently segregated instances with other more familiar phenomena. The president concluded with the following words:—

We, this evening assembled, ephemera as we are, have learned by transmitted labour to weigh, as in a balance, other worlds larger and heavier than our own; to know the length of their days and years, to measure their enormous distance from us and from each other, to detect and accurately ascertain the influence they have on the movements of our world and on each other, and to discover the substances of which they are composed.

May we not fairly hope that similar methods of research to those which have taught us so much may give our race further information until problems relating not only to remoteworlds, but possibly to organic and sentient beings which may inhabit them—problems which it might now seem wildly visionary to enunciate—may be solved by progressive improvements in the modes of applying observation and experiment, induction and deduction?

The address was delivered with more than ordinary energy, and was received with unflinching attention. At the conclusion a vote of thanks to the president was moved by Lord Belper, seconded by the Mayor of Nottingham, and carried.

The early history of Nottingham is involved in great obscurity. The excavations from which it is said to have gained its name (in Saxon), which some interpret "the home of caverns," are supposed to have had a British origin; and Gale contended for placing here the Roman station Causennæ or Causennis, which, however, others place at Ancaster, in Lincolnshire. Nottingham was included in the kingdom of Mercia; it was taken by the Danes, to whom it was confirmed by the treaty between Alfred and Guthrum (A. D. 878 or 880); it was one of their Mercian burghs which connected their Northumbrian and East Anglian dominions. It was taken and fortified by Edward the Elder, but the Danes afterwards regained and held it until they were conquered by Edmund I. (A. D. 942). William the Conqueror built a castle here, the government of which he conferred on his natural son, William Peverell. In the troubles of Stephen's reign the town was taken and burnt by the partisans of the Empress Maud; and it suffered a similar fate either in the later troubles of the same reign, or in the rebellion of Prince Henry, son of Henry II., against his father. In the troubles of the reign of Richard I. the castle, which was of great strength, was the object of contest; in those of the reign of John it was held throughout by the King. The seizure of Roger Mortimer, the paramour of Queen Isabella, in Nottingham Castle (A. D. 1330), is an incident well known. In the civil war of Charles I., that King set up his standard at Nottingham (August, 1642); but the place came next year into the hands of the Parliament, who garrisoned the castle, of which Colonel Hutchinson (whom the "Memoirs" of his lady have made so well known) was governor. During the Protectorate the castle was dismantled; and after the Restoration the old building was replaced by the present one, which has nothing of a castle but the name. The only occurrences of any importance since have been the "Luddite" disturbances in 1811-12, and the riot arising out of the political excitement of 1831, on which occasion the castle was burnt by the rioters. The town has recently been somewhat notorious in connection with electioneering matters.

The town is on a considerable slope on the north bank of the Lene, commanding an extensive view of the Vale of Trent. It consists of a number of streets irregularly laid out, but remarkably well paved. Those in the central and more ancient parts of the town are narrow; but considerable improvements have been effected of late years; the streets of modern erection are broader, and there are several ranges of good buildings. The castle is one rock at the south-west corner of the town, overlooking the Lene. The extension of the town has been checked by the right of common over the land to the north and south of it possessed by the freemen. This has led to the formation of groups of houses of considerable extent in the neighbouring parishes of Sneinton, Lenton, and Radford, which may be regarded as suburbs of Nottingham, and have been included in the municipal limits. There are several bridges in the town over the arms of the Lene or over the Nottingham Canal; and about a mile south of the town is "Trent Bridge" of nineteen arches over the Trent, a very ancient structure, and exhibiting, from frequent repairs, great architectural variety: connected with this bridge are a causeway over the meadows and an embankment to protect the lower part of the town in the time of floods. The Trent is here about 200 ft. wide. The environs of Nottingham are very pleasant.

Among the principal buildings are "the New Exchange," at the east end of the market-place, a brick building erected early in the last century, and repaired and beautified in 1814. The lower part is appropriated to shops, behind which are shambles; the upper part contains a suite of noble rooms for the transaction of public business or for assemblies. The county hall, rebuilt A. D. 1770, is a commodious and handsome building, with two convenient courts, and apartments for the judges, jury, &c. The Townhall is a spacious edifice, of which the town gaol forms the ground floor. There are the theatre; a grand stand on the racecourse, which is to the north of the town, and is one of the finest in the kingdom; extensive cavalry barracks in the castle park; and a building erected as a riding-house for the yeomanry, and now used as a circus or for other public amusements.

The principal manufactures carried on at Nottingham are bobbin-net and lace, cotton and silk hosiery, and boot and shoe making. There are several dye-houses. There are also whitelead works and an iron-foundry. Wire-drawing, pin-making, and the manufacture of brass fenders are carried on to some extent; malting and brewing are also carried on, and "Nottingham ale" has a high reputation. There are several windmills on the common, north of the town. There are coal-pits in Radford parish.

There are several yearly fairs for cattle, cheese, and cloth. At one of these fairs, distinguished as the "goose fair," a considerable number of geese are sold. The trade of the town is much promoted by its proximity to the Trent, which is navigable, and from the communication thus afforded with the various canals connected with that river. The Nottingham Canal passes close to the town, and joins the Trent at Trent Bridge, a mile distant.

THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

The Great Eastern had a smooth passage across the Atlantic. For two thirds of her journey she crossed, at right angles, the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, without mishap, and then entered the cold, southward current which washes the shores of Newfoundland. The two currents pass each other in mid ocean without mixing, and differ so greatly in temperature that, on crossing the line of demarcation, the stem of a ship is usually in water about 20 deg. colder than the stern. These currents put for a short time a strain upon the cable in opposite directions, about six miles of the line being exposed to each, as Professor Thomson calculates that, whilst paying out at five knots and a half per hour, the cable first touches the ground at rather more than twelve miles from the ship. This dangerous part of the route having been passed in safety, the Great Eastern had to feel her way through the thick fogs that usually overhang the coast of Newfoundland, because the cold current of water from the polar regions here condenses the damp, warm air from other parts of the Atlantic. The last danger having been passed in safety, she steamed up Trinity Bay, which opens to the sea in a north-easterly direction, and finally spliced the cable to five miles of thick shore end laid from the terminal station at Heart's Content.

The rest of the line to the northern States of America was built ten years ago by Mr. Cyrus Field and five of his personal friends. They first made a bridle-road, 8 ft. wide and 400 miles long, through the uninhabited forests and swamps of Newfoundland; 600 men and a commissariat staff were employed in this work, the whole of them camping out in tents at night, like a small army. Finally, in spite of the bitterly cold winters of Newfoundland, the opposite end of the island was reached, and Mr. Cyrus Field came to England and bought a cable eighty-five miles long, to connect the land wires with the island of Cape Breton. This cable broke in a storm during the process of laying across the Gulf of St. Lawrence, so Mr. Field returned to England, bought another, and laid that successfully. Prince Edward Island and the Island of Cape Breton were then crossed by land wires; and, finally, by the aid of other cables, the mainland was reached, and Trinity Bay connected by telegraph with New York. Mr. Field then repaired once more to England, obtained many telegraphic privileges from the English and American Governments; after which he formed the Atlantic Telegraph Company, and personally paid up in cash £88,000, or rather more than a quarter of the whole capital of the company. The efforts of the Atlantic Telegraph Company from that time forth are already well known to our readers.

The Great Eastern, it is believed, is now engaged in recovering the cable of last year.

The receiving apparatus used with the Atlantic cable is Professor Thomson's reflecting galvanometer, in which a small magnet and mirror, weighing together but two grains, swing backwards and forwards at the will of the clerk sending messages at the other end of the cable. A bright ray of light from a lamp is thrown upon the mirror, which reflects a small tongue of flame upon an ivory scale 2 ft. distant, and by the play of this bright pencil of fire upon the white scale the messages are read. The sending apparatus is the joint invention of Mr. C. F. Varley and Professor William Thomson, who, by deep research, have discovered many laws governing the passage of electricity through long cables, and have succeeded so well in overcoming the effect of inductive retardation as to get three messages through the cable in the same time that other electricians who have tried have transmitted two.

The last Atlantic cable laid worked for a month and then ceased to speak, but the present one is stronger, and may have a longer life. The deep sea soundings have been taken between Ireland and Newfoundland at about thirty miles apart, and show a muddy bottom most of the way, but with stones and shingle in the middle of the Atlantic. The soundings themselves are not reliable to within fifty fathoms at such depths, and that the gradients are easy between each sounding is assumed in the absence of evidence when mapping the outline of the bed of the Atlantic. If the bed of the ocean is smooth, the cable may last for some time. In the shallow water for the first 400 miles off the mouth of Trinity Bay it will be in greatest danger, because the bottom at this part is very rocky and uneven, and large numbers of icebergs, brought down from the polar regions by the cold, southward current, ground on this part of the route between the months of February and August. As the water is shallow, however, the cable can during one or two months of the year be raised at this point for repairs.

It is one of the chief recommendations of an illustrated journal that it enables its readers to become acquainted, as it were, with those public characters whose names are constantly on men's lips and with whose faces everybody wishes to be familiar. We are happy on this account to be able to introduce to our readers the men who have been associated with the laying of the Atlantic telegraph cable, and to whose sagacity and untiring perseverance we owe its successful completion.

There are no means of accompanying these portraits with a detailed biography of the gentlemen; for the lives of men of science frequently offer but little variety. They are made up very often of patient, laborious experiments towards some great end, and the one thing which becomes known of them is the success which it has taken long and sometimes wearying work to attain.

It will be remembered that the manufacture of the cable was intrusted to the company which was formed from the original firm of Elliott, Glass, and Co., and which is now under the management of Mr. R. A. Glass, who undertook the general superintendence of the great work on behalf of the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, of which Mr. John Pender is the chairman.

It was of the utmost consequence that the most competent electricians should be at each extremity of the cable, and it was therefore decided that one of the consulting electricians should be at each end of the line during the operation of paying out. For this purpose Professor Thomson and Mr. Willoughby Smith went out in the Great Eastern, while Mr. C. F. Varley remained at Valentia. Mr. S. Canning and Mr. Henry Clifford were intrusted with the onerous duty of laying the cable, and finding the broken end of that which was lost last year.

The Great Eastern, whose history has been of such an extraordinary character, was placed under the command of Captain Anderson, whose great experience in the service of the Cunard Company, and his well-known skill as a navigator, pointed him out as eminently fitted for so responsible a task. His chief officer, Mr. Halpin, was selected from the same service, and they have both fully justified the trust which was reposed in them.

Now that the scheme is accomplished, we may well regard the gentlemen who have devoted such untiring energy to its completion as benefactors to the human race; and, though there are few things to which we do not grow accustomed, the Atlantic Telegraph cable is too gigantic a work to sink into commonplace, even in such restless and progressive times as these in which we live.

The diary of the Great Eastern has been published, but is comparatively tame, as there were no startling events to record. The following was the only sensation of the voyage:—"July 28. All went on well until 12.20 a.m., Greenwich time, when the first real shock was given to the success which had hitherto attended us, and this time we had real cause to be alarmed. A foul flake took place in the after tank. The engines were immediately turned astern and the paying-out of the cable stopped. We were all soon on the deck, and learned that the running or paying-out part of the coil had caught three turns of the flake immediately under it, carried them into the eye of the coil, fouling the lay out, and hauling up one and a half turns from the outside, and five turns in the eye of the under flake. This was stopped, fortunately, before entering the paying-out machine. Stoppers of hemp with chains also were put on near the 'V' wheel astern, and Mr. Canning gave orders to stand by to let go the buoy. This was not very cheering to hear, but his calm and collected manner gave us all confidence that his skill and experience would extricate the cable from the obvious danger in which it was placed. No fishing-line was ever entangled worse than the rope was when thrust up in apparently hopeless knots from the eye of the coil to the deck. There at least 500 ft. of rope lay in this state, and in the midst of thick rain and increasing wind. The cable crew were set to work, under their chief engineer's instructions, to disentangle it. Mr. Halpin was there, too, patiently following the bights as they showed themselves; the crew now passing them forward, now aft, until at last the character of the tangle was seen; and soon it became apparent that ere long the cable would be cleared and passed down to the tank. All this time Captain Anderson was at the taffrail, anxiously watching the strain on the rope, which he could scarcely make out, the night was so dark, and endeavouring to keep it up and down, going on and reversing with paddle and screw. When one reflects for a moment upon the size of the ship and the enormous mass she presents to the wind, the difficulty of keeping her stern, under the circumstances, over the cable, can be appreciated. The port paddle-wheel was disconnected, but shortly afterwards there was a shift of wind, and the vessel canted the wrong way. Welcome voices were now heard passing the word aft from the tank that the bights were cleared, and to pay out. Then the huge stoppers were gently loosened, and at 2.5 a.m., to the joy of all, we were once more discharging the cable."

UNDER THE NEW POOR-LAW AMENDMENT ACT, persons relieved out of workhouses refusing to perform the task of work prescribed are rendered liable to be punished under the Act of 5 Geo. IV., c. 83, as idle and disorderly persons.

GREAT MEETING OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—On Sunday morning a meeting of railway servants was held at Wilcock's Assembly Room, Westminster Bridge-road, to consider the best mode of forming a society to procure Sabbath rest, decreased hours of labour, and increased pay. About 500 were present. Mr. C. B. Vincent, secretary to a railway amalgamated benefit society, detailed at some length the well-known grievances of railway servants, arising out of the long time during which they are compelled to be at their posts; and Mr. Street; Mr. Edwards, of the Train; and Mr. Putley, of the Engine Drivers' Association, having spoken, the meeting pledged itself to support an association for co-operative application in agitating for the results wished for, which it seems is already in existence, and possesses nearly 10,000 members; a casual fund for the legal protection and relief of anyone thrown out of employment by attending the meetings or advocating the principles of the association being at present formed with a view to the ultimate establishment of a benefit society instead of the compulsory societies existing in connection with the railways, which were strongly denounced as being secretly managed and unjust in operation. It was stated that the Great Western Company had expressed a desire to help the movement, whilst the North-Western and Midland had "officially acknowledged the receipt" of memorials, and had discharged men from their employ, one (an inspector) after thirteen years' service, because he had joined the association. The idea of strikes was strongly protested against, and temperate, respectful, and combined application decided on.

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE ART-UNION PRIZES.

THE Art Union has this year exhibited the collection of pictures selected by prize-holders at the Gallery of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours. A large number of pictures of varying merit, more or less familiar to those who have visited the exhibitions of the year, were on view, comprising more than a hundred works in oil and about 150 in water colour.

We have always had serious doubts of the value of the benefit which is said to accrue from art unions. They have encouraged painters who might have done better to continue to paint "pot-boilers"—commonplace canvases, appealing to the eye by bright colours and to the mind by hackneyed sentiment. A rising painter, not many months since, informed us that he was advised by a picture-dealer of considerable experience to "paint babies—chubby children with gold hair and blue eyes," if he wished to live by his art; and the demand for this style of thing is, no doubt, greatly due to the number of small prizes given away in art-lotteries.

This year, however, there seems some improvement in the choice of pictures. Nor is this to be greatly wondered at; for there are many institutions afoot now which are devised for the advance of the art-education of the people, and to them, probably, more than to the Art Union is the improvement we note due.

The first prize of £250, which has fallen to Mr. G. J. Broad, has been wisely invested by its fortunate possessor in Mr. Beavis's clever picture of "A Timber Waggon in Picardy," which good judges will remember in the Academy, where it was very badly hung—a fact that speaks strongly in favour of the prizeholder's judgment. Another high prize was carried off by Mr. Birket Foster's exquisite little view of "Winterbourne, Isle of Wight," lately exhibited in the Gallery of the Old Water-Colour Society.

Among the lesser works were some by Mr. C. J. Lewis, and by Mr. David Cox. Messrs. Bouvier, Whympier, and Meadows were also among the favourites: a large picture of "Deborah" by Mr. H. Warren of the New Society, was one of the higher priced pictures, which did not impress us more favourably than it did on its first appearance in Pall Mall.

Of the sculpture little need be said, except that it was a fair specimen of the not very promising style which prevails among our artists in marble at the present time.

THE PUBLIC RECORDS.

THE twenty-seventh annual report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records (Mr. T. Duffus Hardy), which has just been published, gives an interesting account of the business done and the improvements effected at the new Record Office, in Fetter-lane, during the year 1865. No fewer than 3773 persons transacted business in the legal search office, paying fees to the amount of £861 13s. The number of literary inquirers admitted to consult the records and State papers gratuitously was 175, and they inspected 12,677 documents, exclusive of calendars, indexes, and printed books of reference. Attendances at the Rolls Chapel were also given in matters relating to foreclosures of mortgages as follows:—Number of cases where attendance was given and the money paid—attendances, four; money paid, £6683 9s. 3d. Number of cases where attendance was given to receive but no one attended to pay—attendances, thirty; money unpaid, £98,483 8s. 2d. Total of attendances, thirty-four; total of money, £105,166 12s. 5d. The work of producing facsimiles of important records and documents by the process of photozincography was carried on during the year at the Ordnance Survey, Southampton, under the direction of Mr. William Basevi Sanders, an assistant keeper of records. The first part of the work, comprising documents extending from the Conquest to the reign of Henry VII., was published in March, 1865; and the second part, consisting of documents of the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., was nearly ready for publication at the close of the year. The third part, including the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, had also been commenced. Besides these a similar collection of the national documents of Scotland was in progress. On the 26th of July Dr. Robertson, of the General Register House, Edinburgh, arrived at Southampton, and, in pursuance of an arrangement made between the Master of the Rolls and the Lord Clerk Register of Scotland (Sir Wm. Gibson Craig), handed over to the custody of Mr. Sanders a portion of the documents selected for the first part of the series of the national manuscripts of Scotland. By the end of September the whole of these were photographed. The plan adopted for the Scotch records differs in some respects from that pursued in the publication of the English series. Sir W. G. Craig preferred a larger page than that chosen by Sir Henry James, and desired that each copy should be exactly to scale with the original. Many of the Scotch MSS. were so large that in order to copy them in the manner decided upon without any reduction of size it became necessary to photograph them in sections, as many as seven separate negatives having to be taken of the same record in one or two instances. There were, besides, other difficulties of which no previous experience had been obtained. The size of the documents prevented their being placed in the glass frame, and it was consequently impossible to prevent the parchment from temporarily shrinking under the sun, and so rendering the size of the letters smaller in each succeeding negative. Then, again, it was equally difficult to get a perfectly flat surface to the document, the only means to effect this without risk of injury being to fasten it to a board with pentagraph pins round the edge. It happened, fortunately, that the weather was exceptionally fine, and the exposure consequently so short that the operators were enabled to get the negatives before the sun and wind had had time to distort or shake the letters to any important extent. The next step was to prepare the transfer; and in order to do this it was first necessary to take a separate carbon print of each of the sections in which the original had been photographed, to cut off the surplus portions, and to piece the remainder together with such nicety that no division should be visible. The first instrument copied in this way was the Bull of Pope Honorius III. to King Alexander II., conferring privileges on the Church and kingdom of Scotland, and dated from the Lateran, Nov. 21, 1818. The report gives a detailed account of the progress made with the printed calendars of State papers, and with "The Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the Middle Ages." With regard to the "Carte Papers," as it had been deemed inexpedient to make a calendar of them, the Lords of the Treasury determined to have duplicate copies made of such Irish official documents as are preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, one copy to be placed in the Public Record Office for the use of the public, the other copy to be deposited in such place in Dublin as might be selected for the purpose. Mr. John P. Frendergast, barrister-at-law, was appointed to select the papers for transcription, and the Rev. Dr. Russell was afterwards associated with him. The Commissioners had selected for transcription about 1754 official documents from twenty-five folio volumes, each containing upwards of 8000 documents, principally between the years 1640 and 1649. It was likewise determined that a calendar should be drawn up of the valuable "Carew Papers" in the Lambeth Library, including the six volumes which once formed a portion of the Laud MSS. The documents in this collection emanate from the highest authorities, and consist in many cases of narratives of the proceedings of the Irish Deputies, which were intended for no eyes but their own and those of the Home Government. The task of calendaring this important collection has been intrusted to the Rev. J. S. Brewer, Professor of English Literature at King's College, London, and Mr. William Bullen. The question of binding that priceless relic of antiquity, "Domesday Book," in a manner worthy of the nation, was still under consideration.

STATISTICS EXTRAORDINARY.—A religious periodical publishes the following business-like account of conversions effected at Sunderland:—Total number recorded from July 15 to Aug. 9, males, 279; females, 367—646. Identified with Brougham-street Chapel, 199; South Durham-street Chapel, 13; Deptford and Ballast-hills Chapels, 25; North Circuit Chapels, 56; other places, 37: total, 380. Believers purified, 199; backsliders recovered, 107; sinners saved, 340: total, 646.

Literature.

Prison Life of Jefferson Davis: Embracing Details and Incidents in his Captivity, with Conversations on Topics of Public Interest. By Bvt. Lieut.-Col. JOHN J. CRAVEN, M.D. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

Dr. Craven may think himself fortunate if he escape tarring and feathering, being ridden on a rail, or whatever may at present be considered fit punishment for the free expression of opinion in the free States. Dr. Craven has written a book which is in reality a long panegyric on ex-President Jefferson Davis, and anything but a flattering testimonial to his enemies and captors. The doctor attended the President throughout seven months, and made elaborate notes of all that passed between him and that "most remarkable man;" and, as it does not see in Mr. Davis a combination of all the sins and all the wickednesses, it will assuredly annoy vast numbers in the North, and may prove fatal to the doctor's existence.

The narrative is for the most part very interesting, and never tedious. As for the prison details, they are terribly bad; and "prisoner Davis" will suffer in nobody's good opinion by being frantic with rage at the unnecessary humiliation and pain of shackles, and complaining of being watched night and day from three of the four sides of his cell; having his meals sent at times when he was indisposed to eat them, being limited to two shirts a week, being allowed the use of only one suit of his own clothes, &c. Doctor Craven appears to have been fully as indignant as the prisoner himself, and his humane efforts at giving comfort are most creditable, and not without personal danger; for he got into a terrible scrape with the authorities because he ordered a thicker coat and some under-flannel for the invalid prisoner when the cold of winter began to be dangerous. But the reader will be most struck by the accomplished pride of Mr. Davis, and the singular toleration and moderation of his views generally. We may be sure that he believes firmly in the lawfulness of secession, as well as he knows that the Northern leaders, with their fathers and grandfathers, occasionally desired and advocated secession from the South. His views on the negro question are that slavery in the South was preferable to freedom in the North, and that under the new circumstances the race of blacks must suffer dismally on their way to dying out; but as paid labourers on the old estates they might get on fairly enough. But, leaving this subject, grown tiresome of late, we will refer to a few passages of Mr. Davis's conversation, just as we find them chronologically. He admires fishing as a sport, but in theory rather than practice, owing to his busy life during the last thirty years. Isaac Walton was one of his favourite authors, and he dislikes Franklin's attack upon him. But Franklin was a money-getter—hard, calculating, angular. None of the lighter graces or higher aspirations found favour in his sight, and he wanted to crush out all qualities which he did not possess. He had noble qualities; but his school of common-sense was the apotheosis of selfish prudences. Mr. Davis is always good on natural history, and especially on the molluscs and crustacea of the coast, his talk being, the doctor adds, "much pleasanter, though less interesting, than when given a political complexion. He possesses a large, varied, and practical education; the geology, botany, and all products of his section appearing to have in turn claimed his attention. Not the superficial study of a pedant, but the practical acquaintance of a man who has turned every day's fishing, shooting, riding, or picnicing, to scientific account." Mr. Davis thinks that in ten years or less the South will have recovered from the pecuniary losses of the war; but we cannot follow him through his hopeful figures. In politics, the basis of public prominence in the North has been money, loquaciousness, and effrontery; in the South, shining talent, or birth and education. The evil to the North will increase with the increase of immigration. His own elevation he ascribes to his services, and because he represented the principles of the South, of which "the fathers of the country had been the founders, Thomas Jefferson the inspired prophet, and they the eloquent apostles." Mr. Davis suffered in the eyes. He "appeared pretty thoroughly to have studied the art of the oculist. Indeed, it was a remark which every day impressed on me more forcibly, that the State prisoner had studied no subject superficially, and his knowledge in all the useful arts and sciences was varied, extensive, and very thorough in each branch." By way of society Mr. Davis domesticates a mouse. But the breadcrumbs call forth the red ants as well; and then follow some bewitching pages concerning red ants and ant lions, which denote a singularly minute perception. He has no cause either to like or dislike England; but Fenianism excites at once his laughter and disgust. England is strong enough, although the present confused ideas on shipbuilding are bewildering. When Dr. Craven was called to Richmond, Mr. Davis sent messages to his friends, and "he requested me to make his afflictions in prison appear as light as possible, for they had sufficient troubles of their own without borrowing more from his misfortunes."

Such are the characteristics of ex-President Jefferson Davis. Perhaps not one in a thousand of the sympathisers with the South in this country had half so favourable a view of him as Dr. Craven's book will create. To adopt the language of Napoleon (quoted on the titlepage), had he died on the throne, enveloped in the dense atmosphere of power, he might have remained a problem. But misfortune will enable all to judge him without disguise.

Wives and Daughters: an Everyday Story. By Mrs. GASKELL. With 18 Illustrations by George Du Maurier. In 2 vols. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

It is with some reluctance that we handle at all in so short a space a book like this; but it is better, perhaps, to say the warm word at once and have done with it.

"Wives and Daughters" does not exhibit an intelligence so high, so broad, or so deep as "Felix Holt;" it shows no traces of such an almost boundless culture as belongs to George Eliot; it contains not a hint of the poetic vision which that great writer so largely possesses. Every way it is a book of less power and range; but in spontaneity, simplicity, and naturalness, "Wives and Daughters" is not only the best novel of the year, but by many degrees the best novel of several years. George Eliot looks on, sits apart, sends out her sympathies and her critical intelligence, and then paints her astonishing pictures of life. But Mrs. Gaskell seems part of her own picture; her groups of men and women are as if they had grown up around her; she is friendly, domestic, free, and thoroughly English. The truthfulness of her manner is not, like George Eliot's, that of a perfect critic of life, but that of a woman who "lives with the family," knows all about it, and does not say anything untrue because nothing untrue ever strikes her. She is, indeed, very much like her own Molly in this story; one of the sweetest, purest images of English girlhood ever thrown from an English brain. How mixed and "compact" of tenderness and strength—just as you may fancy her young arms to have been—firm, pink-white flesh, that suggests nothing so much as an orchard of apple-trees on a breezy day! Of Mr. Gibson, Mrs. Gibson, and Cynthia it is hardly possible to speak too highly. Mrs. Gibson is, perhaps, the most complete, and yet unexaggerated, picture ever put in a novel of that heartless, empty sort of woman who is capable of all the "virtues" and all the "decencies," who fulfils all her "obligations," and is yet such a husk without a kernel, such an empty creature, as makes more sceptics and chills down more goodness than twenty times the same amount of open vice would perhaps do. In her utter unconsciousness of her own true nature she reminds us—though the reader may start at the idea—of Barnes Newcome; and, now we think of it, she ought to have married him. In Cynthia we have the same type, but cast in a finer mould, with an inner fire of self-consciousness that bursts every now and then like a lit shell, and splinters the girl's nature outwards, so that you say if she could be put together again as she is now, with running flame between the pieces, she would make a woman. She is a subtle study, and it is not inconceivable that Mrs. Gaskell might have intended, at some

time, to exhibit her character as modified by married life. Cynthia was a modifiable woman.

With sound judgment the publishers have appended to the book the whole of the criticism (as fine an essay as we have read for a long time) which in the *Cornhill Magazine* took the place of the continuation of the story, after the author's death. The narrative came to a premature close; but it was happy in its *oraison funebre*. Indeed, the book reads like some speech of a friend who, suddenly called out of the room, leaves the sentence he was uttering cut short of but a few words, but puts into the last word something which is the converse of an echo, and which enables a friend to finish the meaning for her.

Briefly, there are no words of praise too warm for Mr. Gaskell's story of "Wives and Daughters." It is a book not only to read, but to buy; and we may add that Mr. Du Maurier's drawings are a quite tangible addition to its value. They are not mere chips in porridge; they are illustrations, and a help, not a clog, to the text. We earnestly hope the book may have a large success. Clergymen and old-fashioned people are often puzzled to find what they call "safe" entertainment for those who look up to them asking to be "recommended" to a good book. Surely they will eagerly "recommend" "Wives and Daughters."

An English Grammar. By MATTHIAS GREEN. New Edition. London: Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.

People who have got over the age when a school-book was an object of terror, will not object to try Mr. Green's grammar—for their little ones, perhaps. It is a new edition, "given in the simplest and most attractive method ever propounded; with copious examples and exercises; particularly well adapted to schools." There is no fighting such modesty as this; but it must be admitted that the book is simpler than the "Divisions of Purley," and quite free from the coarseness of Cobbett. But all the grammars together would not give universal satisfaction. To many, grammar is a matter of ear; and, surely, if a man can "speak and write the English language with correctness and propriety," he is quite as well off as Mr. Green himself, although he may be unable to parse a sentence. Heinrich Heine says, "The Romans would not have had time to conquer the world if they had had to learn Latin first;" and so "the simplest and most attractive method" of learning our difficult English becomes important. But the juveniles must be taught that close observation in good society is better than all books.

Notes on the Months: A Book of "Feasts, Fasts, Saints, and Sundries." London: S. O. Beeton.

The idea of this book is good, but we doubt if the execution is quite equal to the conception. It is a compilation showing, as the title indicates, all the facts, traditions, superstitions, feasts, fasts, saints' days, &c., appertaining to the several months of the year; and contains a vast amount of interesting, if not invariably useful, information. The compiler says he claims no originality as regards the matter of his book, but seems to have a somewhat high idea of the manner in which he has done his work. Now this is precisely where we think he has failed. He tells us in his preface that the ingredients in the dish he offers us are old, but that he thinks he has so seasoned them as to be sure to "make a pleasing impression on the literary palate." We think he has rather overdone the seasoning; he has spiced his pies too highly. In other words, his style is often cast in so grandiose a pitch as to border upon the ridiculous. A simple fact simply told is much more acceptable than when wrapped up in several sentences of high-flown, big-sounding phrases. With the exception of this fault, which we hope will be amended in future editions, the compiler of "Notes on the Months" has produced a book which contains much pleasant reading, as well as a great deal of curious information. The work is well printed on good paper, and is neatly bound.

Moxon's Miniature Poets. Selections from the Works of Winthrop Mackworth Praed. Edited by Sir GEORGE YOUNG, Fellow of Trin. Coll., Cambridge. London: Moxon and Co.

This, the last volume issued of "Moxon's Miniature Poets," is devoted to a selection from the works of Praed, and is a welcome book indeed. The writings of Praed are now well known, though it may be doubted whether they are yet appreciated as they deserve: not that all that Praed wrote is good, or worth preserving, but that there are many excellent things among his productions. The editor, Sir George Young, has prefixed to the poems a well-written and appreciative biographical and critical preface; a portrait of Praed adorns the book, which is got up in that style of elegance, neatness, and taste which characterise the whole series of "Miniature Poets" issued by Messrs. Moxon. So prefaced, and in such a garb as we have them here presented to us, the poems of the gentle, genial, and witty author cannot fail to secure a numerous circle of readers.

Life and Writings of Joseph Mazzini. Vol. III. Autobiographical and Political. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

We have already, in noticing the first and second volumes of this edition of the "Life and Writings of Mazzini," expressed our opinion of the merits of the work, and need only now say, in reference to the third volume, that like characteristics are prominent here as those which distinguished the contents of the preceding volumes; and that the third is got up in the same superior style of elegance as were the others. Those who wish to possess and to study the writings of the great apostle of Italian freedom and nationality, could not do so in a more agreeable form than that in which they are here presented to the public. We are glad to observe that Mazzini and all those condemned for the affair of Aspromonte have been included in a degree of amnesty signed by the King of Italy, at Padua, on the 17th instant.

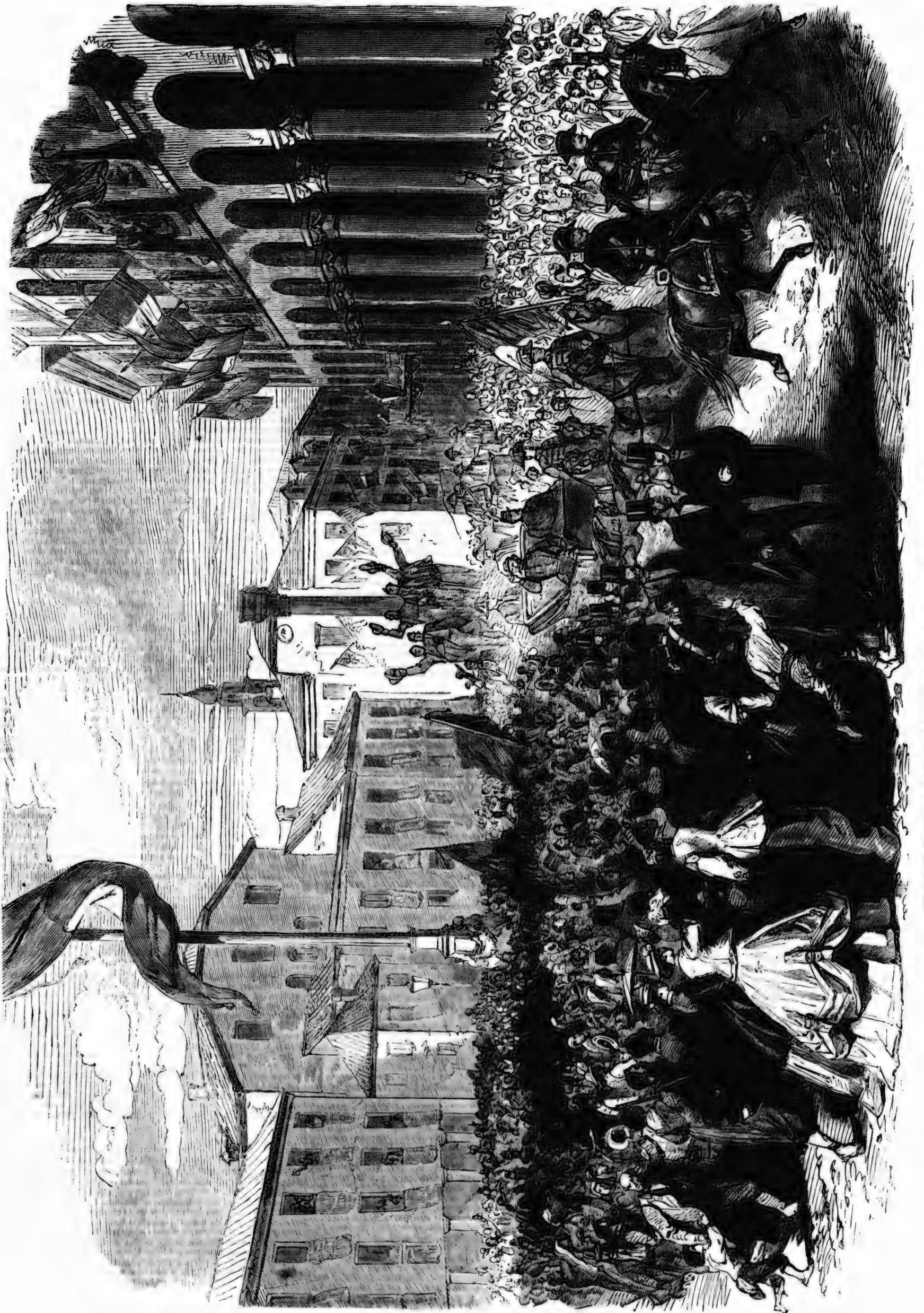
Curiosities of Literature. By ISAAC DISRAELI. London: George Routledge and Sons.

Messrs. Routledge have conferred a great boon upon young readers by the issue, at the low price of three shillings, of a very neat edition of the "Curiosities of Literature," by the elder Disraeli. We say to young readers; for the print, though clear, is so small that we fear only eyes undimmed by age will be able to read it with comfort by artificial, or indeed any kind of light. The difficulty, too, is increased by the tone of the paper, which has a tendency to cause a glimmer to float over the page when looked at steadily. This "tone," no doubt, was meant to add elegance to the work, but we think it was a mistake. The paper, and the matter imprinted upon it, are of themselves so excellent that they needed not the foreign aid of "toning" to recommend them. Those who are still blessed with good eyesight should possess themselves of this edition of the "Curiosities," which is, beyond all doubt, the best literary pennyworth that has been offered to the public for a long time.

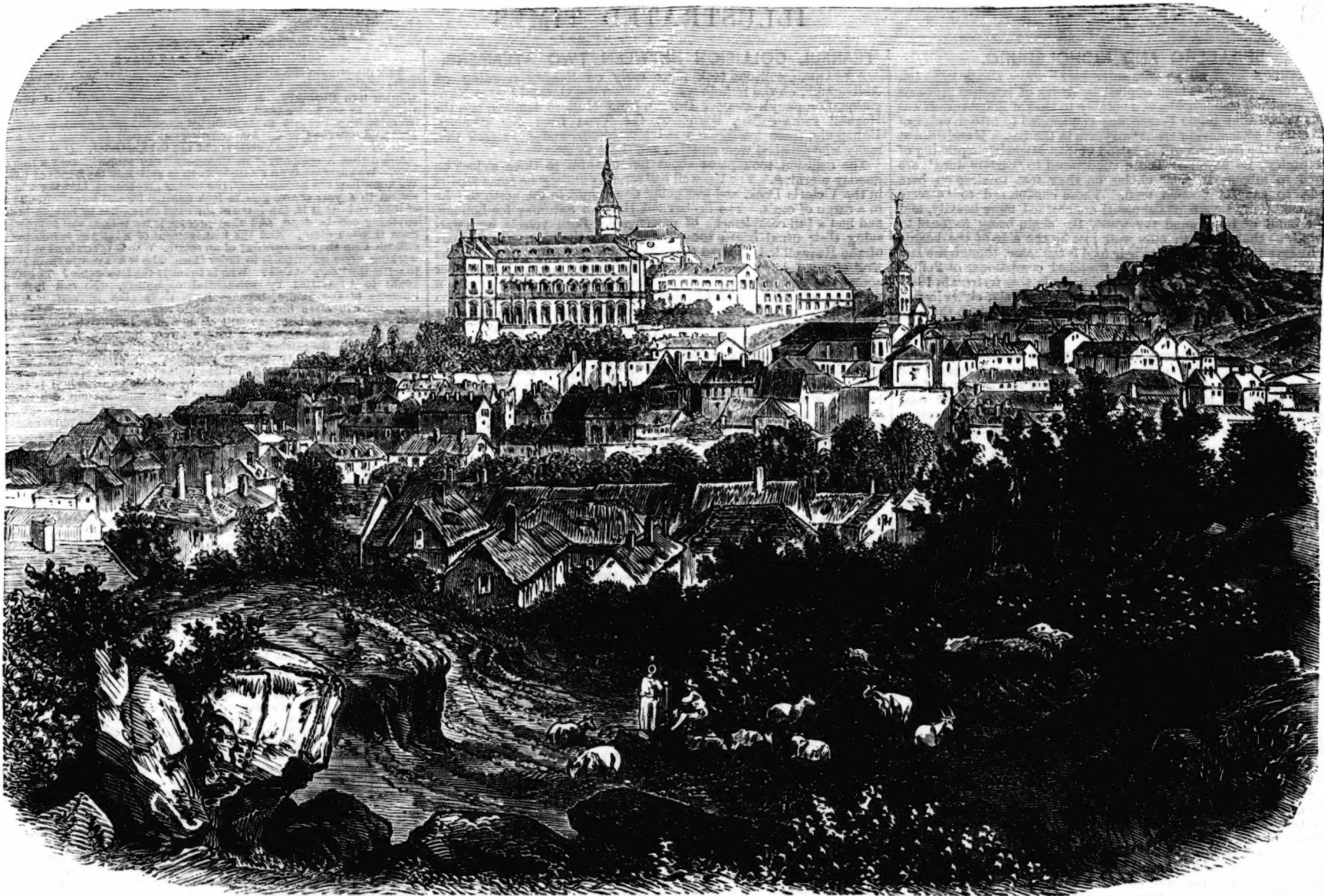
Mattie: a Stray. By the Author of "Owen: a Waif." (Select Library of Fiction.) London: Chapman and Hall.

The publication of nearly a hundred volumes of the "Select Library of Fiction," and the fact that every volume in the series must necessarily be a new edition, makes up a sufficiently good guarantee for excellence on each occasion. "Mattie: a Stray," is the latest novel to receive the honourable distinction of cheapness. It is a quiet story, and in many places inartificially lengthened out by long conversations which develop neither incident nor character. But its quiet merits are many. The characters are varied, and, morally, certainly not too good; and the improvements observed in them towards the close, and the natural manner in which they are effused, lift "Mattie" far above the ordinary novels of everyday life. In its new form it will make new friends.

FIVE HUNDRED DAILY PAPERS have been started in New York in the last quarter of a century, of which only five survive.



THE MAIN STREET OF BOVIGO ON THE ENTRY OF KING VICTOR EMMANUEL INTO VENETIA.



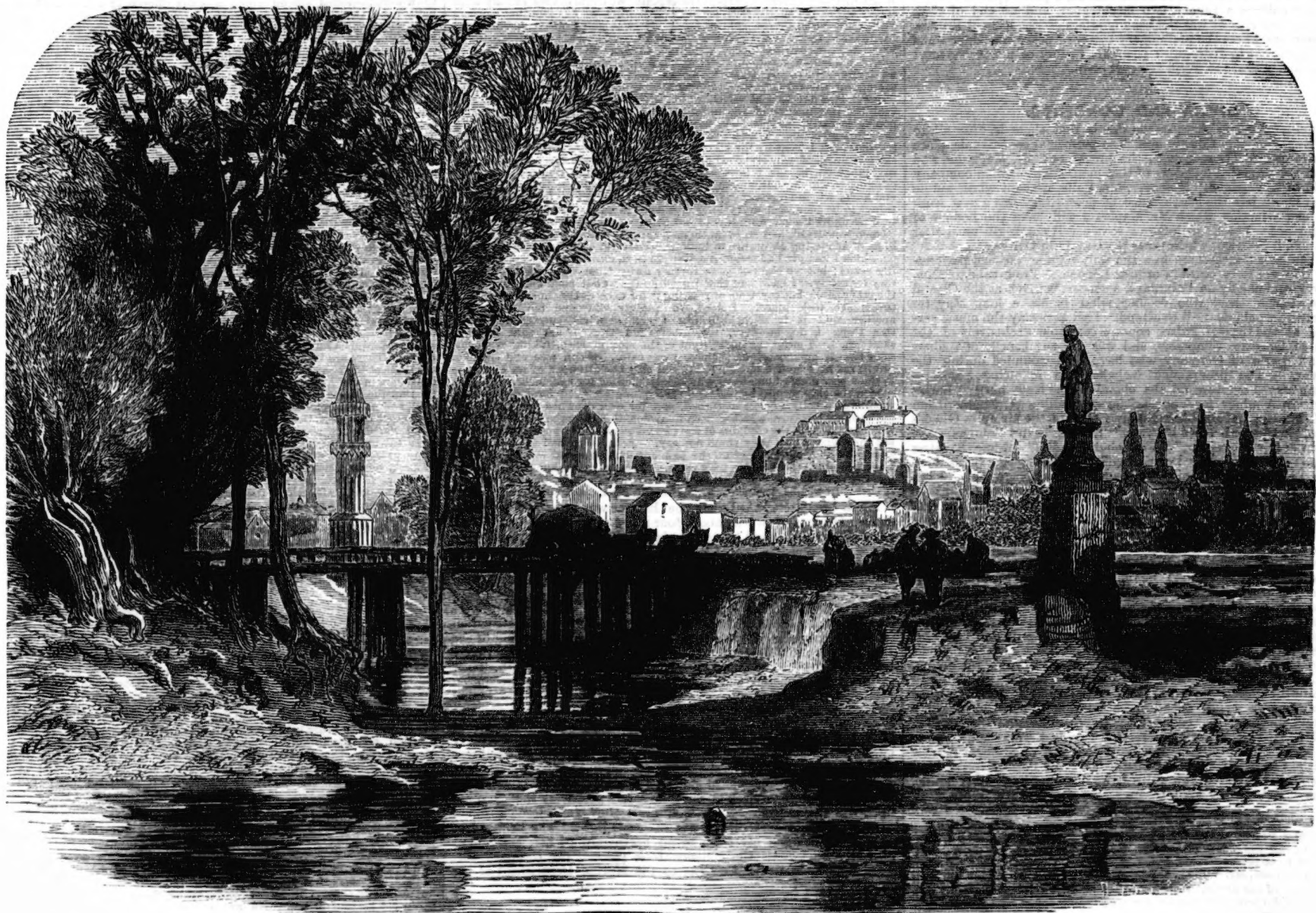
THE FORTRESS OF SPEILBERG, THE GREAT AUSTRIAN STATE PRISON.

THE ENTRY OF KING VICTOR EMMANUEL INTO VENETIA.

We have already published such particulars of the movements of the Italian troops and the disposition of the Royal staff as were sufficient to indicate the course of the campaign against the Austrians in Venetia, and our latest intelligence left the King on his journey into the territory which it is hoped will soon, with its capital, pass once more to the Italian dominion. Our Engraving represents

the Royal entry into Rovigo, and is taken from a sketch made at the time the cortège passed the main street of that ancient town. Rovigo, which was known in Latin as Rhodigium, is the capital of the province of the same name, and lies on an arm of the Adige, about thirty-six miles south-west from Venice. The upper town is known as San Guistino, and the lower as San Stefano; the two being separated by the river, and communicating by four bridges. The place is surrounded by walls, and was at one time strongly fortified; but the prosperity of the town was impeded by the un-

healthiness of its site, although it is well built, and was for some time the residence of the Bishop of Adria. The public buildings are not very remarkable, though the cathedral is a fine example of architecture; and the trade of the place is principally supported by the famous annual fair, which lasts nine days. Even the wine for which Rovigo was anciently so celebrated has now deteriorated into very moderate tippie indeed; and, unless the Royal visit revives its fading fortunes, the place is likely to be left to the slow decay which threatens many of these old Italian towns.



NICHOLSBURG, MORAVIA, WHERE THE KING OF PRUSSIA SIGNED THE PRELIMINARIES OF PEACE.

SPIELBERG AND NICHOLSBURG.

"ABANDON hope all ye who enter here," wrote Dante in an immortal verse, which has been applied by scores of hopeless prisoners to the Austrian strongholds, and notably to that of Spielberg. It was to this prison that Silvio Pellico was condemned to fifteen years of confinement after having spent two years in the Santa Margherita at Milan, and the dungeon of the Island of San Michele. Speaking of his sentence, he says:—"Those condemned to 'carcere duro' are obliged to labour, to wear chains on their feet, to sleep on bare boards, to eat the poorest food. Those condemned to 'carcere durissimo' (very severe punishment) are chained more heavily, and with a band of iron round the waist, the chain being fastened to the wall, so that they can only walk just by the side of the boards which serve them for a bed. Their food is the same, though the law says only bread and water." The wretched companions of Pellico and their brave successors, who were shut up in this fortress in 1830, and since that time for their attempts to liberate Italy, either by pen or sword, from the Austrian yoke, have borne testimony to the long series of oppressions for which the Imperial Government have now to answer.

At this very town of Brunn, dominated by the tower of Spielberg, which had been intended to form one of the strongholds against the Prussian forces, the Austrians have awaited their last defeat, and are glad to subscribe to the terms of peace dictated by their conquerors, and signed by the King of Prussia at that other Moravian town of Nicholasburg, now the head-quarters of the chief of the victorious army.

Brunn, which is about seventy miles from Vienna, and situated on the line from the capital to Prague, near the confluence of the Schwarza and the Zittawa, by which it is almost encircled, is one of the last towns fortified for the defence of the line of approach. It stands on the slope of a hill, and is surrounded with walls, having four gates, entered from its numerous suburbs. It is for the most part well built, and tolerably paved and lighted, and is wonderfully calculated for a fortress, since it commands such extensive views of the surrounding country. The Castle of Spielberg rises behind the town, on a hill of the same name. It was originally built for a citadel, and, after having been used as a State prison since 1809, was to be restored to its original purpose, when the preliminaries of peace closed its career for ever, let us hope, in both capacities.

Brunn has seven public squares, with fountains, and numerous fine churches, notably that of the Augustine monastery, with some fine paintings, and a library attached, founded by Queen Elizabeth of Bohemia. Then there are the cathedral, on the Petersberg, a commanding hill in the west part of the town; St. Jacob's Church, with a steeple 276 ft. high, dating from 1315; the landhaus, the theatre, and the splendid palaces of the Dietrichsteins, the Leichtensteins, the Kaunitzes, and other nobles whose powers have just shrivelled under the wrath of Prussia. But Brunn has more than these, for it is full of asylums, charities, and manufactures. It is in fact the great cloth factory (the Leeds) of Austria, and it is astonishing that an industrial town should be so beautiful and should have such fine public walks as the Augarten or the Franzensberg, where a tall obelisk of Moravian marble was erected in 1818 in honour of the Emperor Francis I. Brunn is old: its citadel was blockaded by the Hungarians in 947, and the town itself was besieged by the Swedes in 1645, and by the Prussians in 1742. It has been repeatedly destroyed by fire and rebuilt. In 1558 it was visited by the plague, which carried off 4000 of the inhabitants, to whose memory a column has been erected in the great square. Napoleon I. had his head-quarters in this town before the Battle of Austerlitz, in 1805; and in 1809 the chief defences of Fort Spielberg were demolished by the French.

Nicholsburg is immeasurably less interesting, although it will henceforth hold a place in history. It is about twenty-seven miles south of Brunn, and is one of the least agreeable places in Moravia, which is certainly saying a great deal. With narrow, ill-paved, and not over clean streets, its only distinction is the castle, situated on a rock almost in the centre of the town, and flanked with lofty towers. There are also a handsome church, a philosophical college, a Piarist college, a library, two synagogues, and no end of cloth factories; but it is or was the head-quarters of the King of Prussia, and the place where the preliminary treaty of peace was signed, and that is sufficient to distinguish it in the history of a war the most extraordinary that the world has ever seen.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE chief operatic news of the day is that there is, after all, to be an English Opera this autumn. The performances will take place at Her Majesty's Theatre, under the direction of Mr. Mapleson, and some of the principal members of that gentleman's Italian company are said to be engaged. Moreover, Mr. Balfe, without whose aid no English Opera has the least chance of prospering, has a new work ready for production, which Mr. Mapleson will have the honour of bringing out. The English Opera season will not begin until after the Norwich Festival, which takes place early in October.

Mr. Mellon's Concerts are now the only regular musical performances that are to be heard in or near London. From time to time, however, and chiefly on Saturdays, a concert is given at the Crystal Palace, which those who do not mind going a long way for their music would do well to attend. Last Saturday the music performed at the Crystal Palace concert consisted exclusively of the works of German composers, and was for the benefit of soldiers from all parts of Germany who have been wounded during the late war. The programme included the following pieces:—

Nicolaï's sacred overture on the choral "Eine feste burg;" Bach's concerto in A minor for four pianofortes (Mdlles. A. Zimmermann and M. Martin, Mr. Benedict and Herr Gans); the air from Glück's "Orfeo," "Che farò senza Euridice" (Mdlme. Elvira Behrens); the air from "Der Freischütz," "Und ob die Wolke" (Mdlme. Kreutzer Caradori); the air from "Der Freischütz," "Kommt ein Schlänger" (Mdlle. Leibhart); the romance from Kreutzer's "Nachtlager," "Ein Schütz bin ich" (Herr Grebe); the air from Mozart's "Clemenza di Tito," "Parto" (Mdlme. Rudersdorf); Maurer's concerto for four violins (Herrn Jansa, Ries, Wiener, and Politzer); the air from Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," "Jerusalem" (Mdlme. Ida Kruger); Silcher's part-song, "Farewell" (the Crystal Palace Choir); Weber's "Invitation to the Waltz," arranged by Berlioz for the orchestra and eight pianists (!); Schubert's "Erl-King" (Mdlme. Elvira Behrens); a lied by Franz Abt (Mdlle. Liebhart); Mendelssohn's part-song, "Der frohe Wandersmann" (the German Choral Unions); Silcher's part-song, "Loreley" (the German Choral Unions); the air from "Robert le Diable," "Robert toi que j'aime" (Mdlme. Rudersdorf); Gounod's "Méditation" on Bach's first prelude, arranged by Herr Manns for orchestra and chorus; the hymn, "Zu Hülfe," adapted by Herr Manns to the Volks-melodie "Es ist bestimmt in Gottesrath," by Mendelssohn; and, finally, Schubert's military march in D, or "marche militaire," as—this being a German concert—it was called in the programme.

At Mr. Alfred Mellon's Concerts the two last "classical" nights have been devoted to the works of Weber and of Spohr. A new quadrille, too, by Mr. Charles Coote, called "the Paris Express," has been produced; and two new waltzes (the "Marie," by Colonel Baillie, and the "Helena," by Fred. Godfrey) are played every evening.

A GREAT PARLIAMENTARY REFORM BANQUET is to be held in Manchester during the month of October. Mr. John Bright has accepted an invitation to be present; and it is expected that Earl Russell, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. T. M. Gibson, Mr. Villiers, and other eminent Reformers will be present.

THE SITE of the ancient British and Roman Capital of Southern Britain has been laid open at Silchester, near Basingstoke, and a large number of relics have been found. A brick has turned up on which some Roman lover had cut words relating to "my lass" or "my girl." Toothpicks, scissors, a strong box, &c., have also been found.

MR. BENJAMIN, the ex-Secretary of the American Southern Confederacy, made his first appearance on the Bar of the Northern Circuit during the Assizes just concluded. He appeared in one or two cases in *risu prius* at Liverpool, and much prepossessed those who heard him in his favour as a very promising addition to the forensic strength of the Northern Bar.

FEARFUL COLLISION BETWEEN TWO STEAMERS.

A FEARFUL collision took place early on Sunday morning off Aldborough, on the Suffolk coast, between the General Steam Navigation Company's steamer Bruiser, from Hull to London, and the Haswell screw-collier, bound to the Tyne from the Thames. Unhappily, there has been a sad loss of life, and it is stated that many who perished were children and some women.

The collision took place about ten minutes to three o'clock on Sunday morning. The Haswell had recently undergone some repairs in the Victoria Dock, and was going down light to the north to take in a cargo of coals. The Bruiser left Hull on Saturday for London, and had a full complement of passengers. Both vessels were pursuing their usual course some few miles off the land. On the part of the Haswell it is averred that she kept a port helm, and that the Bruiser must have suddenly altered her course to have brought her across the bow of the Haswell. The Bruiser was struck right in midships of the starboard side. The shock is described to have been of a most terrific character, and for the time it was apprehended that both ships would go down. The Bruiser was cut down below the water line, and the sea rushed into her hold with considerable force. The cry was raised for the passengers and crew to save themselves by getting on board the Haswell. Captain Harty, the master of the Bruiser, is reported to have been below at the time of the collision, leaving the chief officer on deck. In about ten minutes the Bruiser went down in several fathoms of water, and as she disappeared, several hands, apparently of children and women, were seen above the companion. Many of the passengers were asleep in their berths when the collision took place, and in the confusion were unable to get on deck. Two of the stokers of the Bruiser were killed in their berths, and a sailor belonging to the same vessel was drowned. Amongst the passengers who went on board at Hull was a German woman and two or three children, and it is thought that they have all perished. A passenger also lost his wife. The number who perished is believed to amount to between twenty-five and thirty, but more still may have suffered.

The Haswell, after remaining about the spot for some time, returned to London. She sustained a fearful rent on her port bow, the iron plates being driven in; but fortunately she was light, and the forward bulkhead held firm. The Haswell arrived off the Victoria Dock on Sunday evening, when the passengers were landed.

Mr. Joseph Fry, bookseller, Chelmsford, who was a passenger on board the Bruiser, gives the following account of the catastrophe:—

I had gone to bed in the saloon part of the cabin about eleven o'clock on the previous evening, the weather being calm and the sea smooth. I went to sleep soon after, and I remember nothing more until I was suddenly awake in the morning about three o'clock. The noise which awoke me was as of a strong loud crash, and when I looked out I saw a gentleman who slept in the adjoining berth already on the cabin floor. I hurriedly asked what was the matter, but received only as a reply that something had happened to the ship. I then put some articles of dress on, and at once hurried on deck, where I found the greater portion of the passengers in a state of semi-nudity. Everything was in the greatest confusion. The captain told the passengers to take to the rigging, as the ship was sinking. A great number of people obeyed the order, but I was so unnerved by the sight which presented itself that I was unable to mount into the shrouds. The boats which were suspended to the davits were both stove in, and there was only one small boat on the quarter-deck that could be launched. In the mean time, the ship that had run into us was entangled in our rigging. Her bowsprit extended across our vessel, and all her crew were in the bows. They lowered ropes to bring the people on board, and by this means some were helped up, while others managed to scramble on board by the bowsprit, or any rope which they could get hold of. By this time the captain gave orders that the only remaining boat should be lowered, and the women and children were ordered to be ready to get into it. The sea was perfectly calm at the time, and there appeared no difficulty about getting the passengers transferred from the one vessel to the other. The boat was got down and all was ready, but some of the women, in the dim twilight of the morning, hesitated about being lowered down the ship's side into such a small boat, and after endeavouring to persuade a young girl to go in after two sailors, who had taken charge of the boat, and finding that she would not go in, I descended by a rope, and was the third person in the boat. I think there were nine or ten of us got in, and we pushed off. We reached the side of the other ship and got on board, but not too soon. The vessel that we had just left had been gradually settling down, and although in the hurry, which distracted everyone except the captain, we could not see exactly what injury our ship had received, we discovered when we felt safe that our own vessel had been almost cut in two. She was going down rapidly, and half-naked figures of helpless women were seen, with streaming hair and despairing look, clinging to the shrouds. Just then a schooner hove in sight, and seeing what had occurred bore down upon us. She arrived in time to be of service, for she succeeded in taking off several of the unfortunate persons who were left on the wreck. It is due to that vessel, which afterwards proceeded to Yarmouth, that the intelligence of the unfortunate occurrence reached the London papers so early, for the facts were only made known by her crew telling the circumstances. I was not amongst those who were rescued by the schooner, but I went by the other steamer to London. I never shall forget the awfulness of the scene which presented itself on the occasion of the ship going down. As I have said, there were a great number of persons clinging to the shrouds, and their wailing for help was heard above the bustle and hurry which possessed everyone. Orders were given for all manner of things to be done, and everything was done to save human life that could be done under the circumstances; but above all the shrieking of the terrified women was heard, and half-frantic men rushed in every direction with the hope of rendering assistance to those who were yet on the wreck. The ship on which I had got had steamed astern, so as to clear herself from the sinking vessel; but we had not gone further away than was absolutely necessary for safety. I have said that I got into the small boat and so reached the other ship; but my time of relating it far exceeds the time in which the occurrence took place. Indeed, so rapidly did one matter succeed another that it is with difficulty I can recollect succeeding events. One thing I do, however, remember, and that I am sure I never shall forget. I mean the awful sight of the sinking ship, taking with her some twenty human beings. The sea was calm, the sun rose and shed his bright red rays on the water; but it was only the glimmer of an existence to those poor doomed creatures who vainly pleaded for assistance. All of a sudden the ship seemed to reel, and then, plunging head foremost beneath the waves, a boiling surge succeeded, and for ever drowned the cries of the unfortunate creatures who had been unavoidably left on the wreck. I afterwards inquired of the captains of the two vessels how the accident occurred, but they replied that they could not say. Both ships had showed lights, and both had men stationed on the look-out, but no signal was given to the helmsman until the collision took place. From my own knowledge I know nothing of the occurrence further than what I have said; but the sinking of that ship will be, I fear, visible for ever to my mental vision.

It has been ascertained that the Bruiser was sunk in fourteen or sixteen fathoms of water, about four miles north of Sizewell Bank. Off Aldborough several boats have brought in from the spot a quantity of her wreckage, one of her life-boats, together with a quantity of passengers' luggage and ladies' bonnets, capes, dresses, parasols, children's wearing apparel, toys, &c., which were found floating for miles off the coast.

The directors of the General Steam Navigation Company were engaged many hours on Tuesday making a searching investigation into the circumstances attending the collision and the sinking of the Bruiser. Captain Harty, the chief mate, and the whole of her crew were called before them and examined at considerable length. Their statements, we understand, were to the effect that every precaution was taken on board in attending to their lights during the night and seeing that they were properly trimmed and burnt brightly, and this is admitted by the second mate of the Haswell, whose watch it was on deck, as he admits that he saw the Bruiser's lights half twenty minutes before the collision. From the moment the Haswell was first seen from the Bruiser she was supposed to be a sailing vessel at anchor, with her mast-head light exhibited. All the crew of the Bruiser who were on deck at the time assert positively that no other light was visible from the Haswell until they were close on to her, when they could just discern a dim green light. The Bruiser had already starboarded her helm to go northward of her, and almost instantly afterwards the collision took place. The company forwarded a report of the accident to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.

WESTERN BENGALE has been visited by a severe storm, which lasted two days. It was accompanied by a rainfall of 50 in., and the consequence was a flood of unprecedented severity. Crops, cattle, and railway bridges were swept before it, and the damage done is described as immense.

THE FORESTERS had a great day at the Crystal Palace on Tuesday. They travelled thither in thousands, many of them decked out with the insignia of their respective lodges. Fortunately, the day was very fine, and there was nothing to militate against the pleasure of the holiday-makers.

INSOLVENT RAILWAYS.

THE directors of the London, Chatham, and Dover have issued a letter to their creditors stating that they cannot pay, and the railway itself has been thrown into Chancery. A receiver has been appointed, and the "net" receipts, as we understand, are to be paid into the Court of Chancery. Working expenses are to be deducted from the gross earnings and the surplus paid into the Court. And the directors appear to be satisfied with this state of things, but the public ought not to be satisfied. It is perfectly impossible that a company "in Chancery" can properly work a line of railway. We know what an estate is when it gets into the hands of the Court. We know how the houses decay, the timber gets too old, how the whole place almost in a year or two gets to look uncared for and forgotten. The leave of the Court—that is, the leave of the chief clerk—has to be obtained before anything can be done, and that process is too tedious and too costly to be gone through often. And the management of a railway is infinitely more difficult than the management of an estate. Who is to settle what are proper working expenses, who is to order them, who is to execute them? Who is to settle the "fare"-table? Who is to settle the time-table? These matters ought to be settled by substantial capitalists, who can look to the interests of the public, because it is their own interest. A solvent capitalist will often increase immediate expenditure in the hope that he will save more at last; he will often reduce immediate income, in the hope that he will receive a future larger income. But the Court of Chancery will do neither. It can do neither. It has neither the knowledge nor the ability that is requisite. It cannot hear arguments for nine trains a day instead of eight trains; it cannot spend a day on the question whether the best parcel rate from town A to town B is 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d. It cannot "settle a scheme" for the management of a line. But it is very important that some one—and some one who is competent—should settle it. The comfort of the public and the safety of the public depend on the proper adjustment of a great mass of business in which the *data* change constantly, and in which the decisions ought to vary daily. But the Court of Chancery is utterly unable to change anything which wants changing frequently; and there is a great danger lest, under the guise of a friendly suit, the line may still be in the hands of the old insolvent company. The directors of that company have always been in the habit of managing; they and they only appointed all the permanent officials on the line; they and they only know their respective attainments and qualifications; they and they only can replace them. But though they were the best persons to manage when they and the shareholders who named them had a vital interest in managing well, they are the worst people to manage when they have such an interest no longer. The chronic management of a line by a board of directors named by ordinary shareholders, whose ordinary shares receive no dividend, is the worst possible management—it is the management by persons who know nothing about the business and care nothing about it. The income of the common shareholder is long ago swallowed up in the payment of interest on borrowed money and in payment of preference shareholders, and he will not care to manage well an undertaking in which he has long ceased to have a real interest. The whole policy of our railway system assumes that the shareholders who name the directors are benefited by the success of the line, and injured by its non-success, and that system will not work even tolerably when its first axiom is not complied with. Parliament, too, has made the managers of railways peculiarly liable in case of accident. But the Court of Chancery cannot be so liable, and an insolvent company cannot be so liable. Neither the system of management nor the system of compensation can work as usual, and as it ought, while a railway is under the jurisdiction of the Court. The truth is, that all the railways belonging to all insolvent companies ought to be sold at once to new persons of means and capital. They, as a nearly universal rule, pay much more than working expenses, and if they are thrown into the open market some persons will readily be found to buy and work them. There is much danger that the protection of the Court of Chancery may in some cases postpone rather than accelerate this result. Where the suit is of a friendly nature, the conduct of it is substantially in the hands of the present railway officials, and they will not hurry on a sale by which their position will be lost and their incomes cease. The Court of Chancery is a most powerful machine, but it is set in motion by the litigants, and if the directing litigants dislike the most desirable result they can often delay it for a considerable period.—*Economist*.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.—On Monday the annual meeting of the members and friends of this association was held at Hastings, where they were received with every mark of courtesy by the Mayor and Corporation. The Earl of Chichester, the president, delivered an inaugural address, in which he adverted to the main objects of interest to which the attention of the members would be directed during the week. After this there was an inspection of the castle, an account of which was given by Mr. T. H. Cole, M.A. It was built, he said, in the reign of William the Norman, and occupies the site of a more ancient fortress, covering an area of about an acre and a half. There was formerly a priory, of which scarcely any remains now exist. Some other antiquities of the town were inspected, among which was the Church of the Holy Trinity, built upon the site of an ancient monastery of the Black Monks of St. Augustine. The old walls which once protected the town on the sea side were traced, the Roman remains on the East-hill were visited, and much interest was shown in respect to the house in All Saints-street in which Sir Cloudeley Shovel is said to have been born. In the course of the day a paper was read by Mr. Edward Leven, M.A., on St. Mary's Collegiate Church, in Hastings Castle; one by Mr. M. A. Lower, M.A., on the battlefield of Hastings; one by Mr. W. J. Grant, on Hastings Castle; and one by Mr. T. H. Cole, M.A., on the antiquities of the town generally. In the evening the members dined together at the Castle Hotel. On Tuesday morning the members of the association paid a visit to Rye and Winchelsea, the latter of which is full of interesting historical associations, many of which were explained by Mr. R. C. Stillman. It appears to have derived its name from Wincheling, son of Cissa, who was the founder of the South Saxon kingdom. In 1066 William the Norman landed here, and Henry II. in 1188. In 1266 the town was stormed by Prince Edward, and young Simon De Montfort was defeated. In 1287 the old town of Winchelsea was swallowed up by the sea on the eve of St. Agatha. The town afterwards became the place of import for French wines, for which massive crypts were built, and in the time of Henry IV. was one of the chief ports of embarkation for France. In 1690 it was pillaged by the French, and in 1880 by the Spaniards. Henry VIII. built the Castle of Camber, the ruins of which are still standing. In the church are three altar-tombs of the time of Edward I., called Crusaders, or Knights Templars, one of whom is supposed to be a member of the Oxenbridge family. Among the objects which excited considerable interest is a convent of Gray Friars, of which the choir, with some beautiful arches and windows, still remains. On Wednesday, by permission of Marquis Camden, the members of the association visited Bayham Abbey. There are few remains of the abbey buildings, except the walls and the ruins of the chapterhouse, cloisters, and gatehouse. They also visited the palace of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Mayfield. It was erected by St. Dunstan in the tenth century. Provincial synods were held in 1332 and 1362, and Archbishop Meapham, Stratford, and Islip died there. Queen Elizabeth visited Sir Thos. Gresham at Mayfield, and Thos. May, the historian of the Long Parliament, was born in the palace in 1595. The palace and manor were surrendered by Archbishop Cranmer to Henry VIII. in 1545, and the King granted the estate to Sir Henry North. It subsequently became the property of Sir Thomas Gresham. The principal object deserving notice in the ruins of the old palace is the magnificent banqueting-hall, which is 70 ft. long and 30 ft. wide; the three arches which formerly supported the open roof are still remaining entire. The accidental falling of some plaster at the upper end of the hall discovered a mitre formed of roses, carved in stone, which is supposed to have been the spot where the Archbishop's chair was placed. The grand staircase, leading to what were the principal apartments, is a massive piece of stonework, and leads into a large wainscoted room, wherein are deposited the celebrated reliques of St. Dunstan—namely, his sword, an anvil, and hammer. The east end of the palace is now used as a farmhouse.

EX-GOVERNOR EYRE.—Southampton was, on Tuesday evening, the scene of two demonstrations, both in their way equally significant. At the Philharmonic Rooms a number of gentlemen assembled to dine with Mr. ex-Governor Eyre, and to hear what that gentleman had to say in defence of conduct which the Government of England considered was deserving of deprivation of power and of summary dismissal from office. An address, signed by 1000 persons of respectable position, was previously presented, to which he returned a suitable reply. The banquet was attended by 120 noblemen and gentlemen. Mr. Eyre was received with much applause, and Mrs. Eyre and family were loudly cheered on entering the gallery with other ladies after the cloth was withdrawn. The Mayor presided, and the principal speakers were the Earl of Cardigan, the Earl of Hardwicke, the Earl of Shrewsbury, Professor Kingsley, the Mayor, and several local gentlemen. In another part of the town, and at the same time, over 2000 of the inhabitants assembled for the purpose of "condemning the wholesale hanging, shooting, and flogging that followed the suppression of the outbreak in Jamaica; and also to protest against the ill-considered attempt of a few persons in this town to connect the people of Southampton with a demonstration in favour of ex-Governor Eyre, who has been censured and recalled by the Government for his conduct in relation to those deplorable events."

WANTED, IRON WALLS.—The shoemaker's wife, as everybody knows, is always the worst-shod woman in the parish. In like manner the ship-builder's wife appears to be the worst off in the world for ships. All the maritime nations of the earth are armed with ironclads, designed by, or after, Cowper Coles, and mostly built in British dockyards. This country, apparently, is actually behind every other as to naval armaments; being even in the rear of Brazil. Britannia supplies the world with ships of war in plenty, and is stinted of them herself. But while Crispina's lack of shoes is thrift, Britannia's deficiency of ships is extravagance. It costs her seventy million pounds. A silk purse is not to be manufactured with the ear of a certain female pachyderm. Neither are iron walls to be made out of wooden heads.—*Punch*.

LAW AND CRIME.

A NOVEL excuse for theft appears to be growing into favour in our courts of criminal judicature. Last week we recorded the case of a man named Mitchell who was acquitted by a jury upon a charge of theft in having abstracted portions of books from a public library, to which he had gained access under false pretences. He had denied his own name and the possession of the stolen property (found concealed in his desk), and the jury concurred in considering his act as rather one of folly than of felonious intent. It seems that our magistrates are following the example of Mitchell's jury in regarding theft as an offence into which an honest man may be occasionally led without consideration of personal advantage. Two children were playing with a dog when one Michael Lynch, described as a labourer, snatched up the dog, and, with a blow of his fist, knocked over one of the children on his appealing for restitution of the animal. The fellow ran off, followed by a crowd calling "Stop thief!" A policeman seized him, and Lynch tried to strangle him, tore his coat to pieces, and, but for aid from bystanders, would have killed him. Mr. Tyrwhitt chose to regard the attempted theft as a taking "more out of mischief than anything else," and punished the prisoner for the assaults only. Another fellow, also a labouring man, described as "most respectable," stole a half-pint bottle of brandy from a public-house where he had been drinking at the bar, and, on being followed and asked for payment, abused the landlord, refused to pay or return the liquor, was given into custody, and discharged upon agreeing to pay, as the magistrate chose to consider the larceny in the light of a "lark," while he cautioned the "most respectable" young thief that persistence in such a style of "practical joking" might lead him to the felon's dock. Again, four boys, aged from ten to thirteen, were charged at Bow-street with theft. They had planned a raid upon the milk stalls in St. James's Park. They waited until the stall-keepers had left and had locked up the curds and whey, with the mugs and glasses. Then, while the two youngest kept watch, the elder boys broke open the stalls with chisel and crowbar, to fill a stolen can with curds and whey. They were caught at this and brought before the magistrate, Mr. Flowers, who said that, although he believed "this was more a foolish trick than anything else, yet if it had succeeded they might have gone on till they came to think it a very nice way of getting things without money." So the embryo burglars were fined 2s. each, one shilling being for damage to the doors of the stalls, under each of which is a kind of cupboard for the stock and utensils.

A poor blind man applied for a summons against a policeman who had entered his apartment and cruelly maltreated him by striking him with a lamp. The magistrate referred him to the "police commissioners." Really, we confess ignorance as to any common or statute law by which the "police commissioners" (if such authorities exist, which we doubt, in reference to the metropolis) are constituted a tribunal for the decision of charges of assault. If policemen, as such, are to be held by magistrates beyond the reach of ordinary legal process, like soldiers under a declaration of martial law, it might be well to sue them for damages before the County Court Judges, who are certainly not under terror of Sir Richard Mayne. Had this case been one in which a wealthy man had had cause of complaint, during Term time, an application to the Court of Queen's Bench for a mandamus commanding the magistrate to hear the case might have led to an authoritative direction as to his duty in this particular.

A man named Newman, described as a livery-stable keeper, was indicted for fraudulently obtaining £20 from a gentleman, a nephew of Lord Brougham. Newman was possessed of a horse of good appearance, but worse than worthless by reason of its indomitable temper. He sold it, with a written warranty, to a gentleman named Raikes, who, finding it vicious, returned it, and required his money to be returned on the warranty. Newman retained the horse and money both, and a second time sold the animal, to Mr. Wilfred Brougham, who holds a commission in a cavalry regiment. A warranty was given describing the horse as "sound, easy going, and quiet to ride or drive." The price agreed upon was £60, £20 being paid, and a bill given for the balance. The horse was sent to Mr. Brougham's stable. Mr. Brougham the following morning attempted to ride him. According to Mr. Brougham's statement:—

It was more than half an hour before he could get out of the stable, and when that was done he reared up, fought, kicked, and roared like a bull, so that all idea of riding him was soon abandoned. A servant was then directed to lead him to Aldershot, and when he got there he was taken to the riding-school, and what is called "a rough ride" was put on his back, but he would not go more than ten yards when he stubbornly refused to move. A man was sent behind him with a pitchfork to try to move him, but it was of no use, for he began fighting and rearing up, and he could only be got about ten yards round the circle.

On this Mr. Brougham required Newman to refund, and, on his refusal, took criminal proceedings. The Judge, Mr. Serjeant Dowling, for some reason which it is not easy to imagine, directed the jury that he did not think the false pretences were made out. The jury thereupon returned a verdict of "Not guilty," but the prisoner was detained to answer another indictment.

Two cases were heard before Mr. Flowers, at Bow-street, in which Messrs. Graves and Co., the well-known printers, prosecuted dealers for the sale of pirated photographic reproductions of valuable engravings, of which the complainants were proprietors of the copyright. A conviction was obtained in each case. In one the penalties for the sale of five pictures amounted to £70; but the prosecutors undertook not to claim the enforcement of the penalties unless the offence were repeated. In the course of this case Mr. Flowers made some noteworthy remarks upon a matter of social honesty:—

These gentlemen (the prosecutors) embarked an enormous capital in the purchase of copyrights and publication of engravings; and to pirate these was next to robbery. At the same time, he must remark that, on the same principle on which it was said that if there were no receivers there could be no thieves, no persons would make these pirates if no one would buy them, and many persons who considered themselves gentlemen did buy them—in his opinion, much to their discredit. If they would not buy these pictures honestly, it was no honour to them to show them on their walls or in their portfolios.

The excursion season, which takes Londoners out of town, brings country folk into it. It may, therefore, be well once more to put strangers upon their guard against the artifices of skittle sharpers, sham vagabonds, and street swindlers. At present, such vagabonds infest our thoroughfares. They ascertain at once whether an intended victim has a knowledge of town, and at the same time open a conversation by inquiring the way to some particular locality. Here is a rule by which the honest may always be distinguished from the dishonest inquirer. The skittle-sharper always keeps walking alongside of the person whom he addresses. In fact, the practised London pedestrian can tell, before being spoken to by one of these vagabonds, what character is near him by listening to the adaptation of the stranger's step to his own. But, beyond this, the sharper, having received his answer, always endeavours to prolong the conversation, which no honest man does. It is of no use for the stranger to suppose that by avoiding betting he may be secure. Every one of these rascals is watched by two or more confederates, and if cunning fails, they never hesitate, on opportunity, to resort to violence to accomplish their object of robbery.

POLICE.

NARROW ESCAPE OF AN ALDERMAN.—Mr. Benjamin Giffin, a livery-stable keeper, was summoned before Alderman Allen, at Guildhall, for driving, to the common danger of the passengers.

A police constable said that, on the 28th of July, at a quarter-past seven o'clock in the evening, he saw the defendant in a chaise in Lombard-street. He drove twice across an omnibus, and if the driver had not pulled up his horses very sharply, he would have smashed the defendant's vehicle. He believed the defendant was under the influence of drink.

Two other witnesses corroborated the above statement, and also thought the defendant was affected by drink. Mr. Giffin said he was not at all under the influence of liquor; but the fact was, he was very much excited because he had just been informed that a valuable horse of his had been shot in Fenchurch-street, and he was hastening to the spot where it had been killed.

Mr. Davie (clerk).—What do you mean by your horse being shot?

Defendant.—Why, that he was shot through the heart.

Mr. Davie.—What, in the street?

Defendant.—Yes; in Fenchurch-street. The horse was passing a store for firearms, and a person inside was looking at a rifle which he was not aware was loaded, and it went off, and the bullet went through my horse's heart.

Mr. Davie.—Do I understand you to say that while your horse was passing the door of the store a gun inside was fired into the public street and killed your horse?

Defendant.—Yes, Sir.

Mr. Davie.—So that if the Alderman had been passing at the moment the ball might have gone through him?

Defendant.—Precisely so.

Alderman Allen.—I am glad I was not there.

Mr. Davie.—Have the police made any inquiry into the matter?

Defendant.—The parties have paid me fifty guineas for my horse, and I made no complaint to the police.

Inspector Denny.—The circumstance has been reported to the police, and they have inquired into it. It appears that the gentleman who was examining the gun was not aware it was loaded, and in handling it, it went off. It was a pure accident.

Alderman Allen.—Your excitement was very natural, but you have been guilty of indiscretion. Under all the circumstances the summons will be withdrawn on payment of costs.

AN ACTION ABOUT A BANK NOTE.—LIABILITY OF BANKERS.

A NOVEL suit was heard at the Wakefield County Court last week. The Leeds and County Bank brought an action against Mr. William Walker, woolen draper, to recover £5 under the following circumstances. In June last Mr. Walker obtained from the manager of the Wakefield branch of the bank a £5 bank note in exchange for a £5 Longton note. The change was effected on a Saturday, and on the following Tuesday or Wednesday the Longton Bank stopped payment. Mr. Walker, on being applied to, refused to indemnify the plaintiff, and the present action was accordingly instituted. Mr. Richardson, the manager, proved that it was the custom to clear out foreign notes once a week, and that it was the habit of the Leeds and County Bank to do this on a Thursday. It was therefore contended that as there had not been reasonable time for the note to be presented, the defendant was liable for the amount. Mr. Walker's advocate, however, quoted a case in which it had been decided that a banker changing country notes was bound to remit them the same day, or be liable to the loss accruing therefrom. His Honour said the case was clearly against the plaintiff, and therefore gave a verdict for the defendant.

SINGULAR CASE.—On Monday, the 23rd ult., Christina Macarthur, residing with her parents at 13, Holmescroft-street, Greenock, while amusing herself on a stair at tenement 28, Ann-street, got, unobserved, outside of the rail, and in attempting to get over upon the roof of a cellar fell headlong to the paved court below, a depth of some 18 ft., striking her head heavily. She was picked up by Mrs. Vosper, a neighbour, to all appearance lifeless. Dr. McRaid, who resides nearly opposite, was immediately in attendance, and from him we gather the following particulars:—"I found the child utterly motionless and breathless, and to all appearances dead. Her head was twisted beneath the left shoulder, and almost reversed on the body. I began to examine whether, and if so whereabouts, the skull might be fractured, when Mrs. Vosper, who had the child in her lap, told me the neck, not the head, was broken, and that, therefore, medical aid was useless. I saw at once that the relation of the neck with the head was unnatural, and, instead of waiting for a nice diagnosis, proceeded to use means of reduction. With this object I supported the back with the left knee, took a grasp of the head, and began to pull gradually and pretty strongly. I had not pulled much when the patient's eyes opened, and an attempt was made at breathing. As a physiological test of the nature of the injury I ceased pulling, when immediately every phenomenon of life ceased as before. I then pulled strongly, and the parts came to the natural position with a snap, exactly as occurs after the reduction of dislocations, but not so audibly. Immediately the eyes opened, and shortly afterwards gasping took place, and in a minute or so breathing was established. The child was then carried up stairs, while I continued to keep the head and neck steady. We placed her on a hard, narrow bed, and in the best position possible, by means of pillows. Mrs. Vosper undertook to remain beside her to guard against any movement of the head. The head, however, was disturbed during the night, and convulsions supervened, which ceased, however, as soon as the head was kept steady by the hand. Then came vomiting of dark matter, followed by much heat and much disturbance. I caused the neck to be well leached, and a counter irritant to be applied to the epigastrium, on which the convulsions disappeared. To secure rest laudanum was administered, after which the patient slept. During sleep heat was kept down by means of iced water applied to the head. Next morning the patient appeared more lively; but the least movement of the head produced distortion of the features and a minor convulsive movement. She was quite sensible, but could neither articulate nor swallow. Towards mid-day she could articulate most words, but was deficient in pronouncing linguals. A few hours afterwards she could both swallow and speak. As there was much disturbance of both cerebral and respiratory organs I gave her ten grains of calomel, which soon settled her down. The child's neck is still distorted to the right side, and for this a stay support is being used; the child is progressing favourably."

AN OBSTINATE CAVEYER.—An extraordinary case came before the Sunderland magistrates on Saturday.

A pitman named Thomas Robson was summoned for refusing to quit a cave he had hollowed out for his occupation in the seabank, on the lands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who were the summoning parties. Their only object was to induce Robson to quit "the premises;" but neither threats nor persuasion could succeed. It transpired, during the hearing of the case, that the defendant took it into his head to leave his employment at Ryhope Colliery and the house he occupied for the purpose of excavating a habitation out of the seabank. He made himself a nice entrance, cut out a room of considerable size, and made a hole at the top for a chimney. The place was timbered on the sides and the roof; but, though he had fitted it up in a style that might be comfortable to live in, there was danger of its giving way, and some morning he might find himself on the beach. The cave was about half way up the bank and about 40 ft. from the beach, and was approached by a winding path. The defendant proving obstinate to the last, a fine of £5 was inflicted, and, refusing to pay, he was locked up. In the afternoon some policemen and about a dozen navvies proceeded to the cave, where they found the defendant's wife's sister in possession. On being asked to remove the furniture and leave, she refused, declaring she would stick to the place until she died, and they would have to bury her there. They were ultimately obliged to remove both her and the furniture by force, after which the navvies commenced to demolish the place, which had been very strongly built. The defendant was then released.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—The weekly return of the Registrar-General of the deaths in the metropolis up to Saturday last is so far of a satisfactory character that it shows a decrease in the whole number of deaths, as compared with the previous week, of 500, the respective totals being 2299 and 1799. The deaths from cholera for the last six weeks have been respectively as follow:—32, 346, 904, 1053, 781, and 455; and from diarrhoea, 150, 221, 349, 354, 264, and 194. The decrease, therefore, in the deaths from the two kindred diseases in the last as compared with the previous week has been 406, or 649 as against 1045. This decrease is absolutely the greatest in childhood cases, but relatively greatest in manhood cases. The registrar gives some very interesting facts as regards the incidence of the epidemic. The fatalities in the west have been highest in Kensington and lowest in St. James's, Westminster, the scene formerly of the Broad-street pump mortality. In the southern districts the mortality has not exceeded 3 per 1000. Those southern districts most affected lie low, are generally poor, and were decimated by cholera in the epidemics of 1849 and 1854, whereon the impure water of the tidal Thames was distributed; but, as they have almost entirely escaped this attack, it is remarked that they are now supplied with water drawn above Teddington Lock from the Thames. The water in a more remarkable degree appears connected with the awful fatality in the eastern districts. In the borough of Liverpool, out of 518 deaths registered last week, 157 were attributable to cholera, and 636 diarrhoea, showing an increase, as compared with the preceding week, in deaths from cholera of 31, and a decrease in those from diarrhoea of 12. Epidemic cholera, the registrar adds, does not exist in any other of the larger towns. The annual rates of mortality per 1000 in the metropolis and twelve other of the principal places in the kingdom for the week ending Aug. 11 were as follow:—Birmingham, 19; Bristol, 20; Dublin, 22; Edinburgh, 24; Glasgow, Leeds, and Sheffield, 25; Salford and Manchester, 27; Hull, 29; London, 31; Newcastle-on-Tyne, 32; and Liverpool, 56. The difference between the first and last of this list is startling.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE Directors of the Bank of England have announced a further reduction in their minimum rate of discount, and the quotation now rules at 7 per cent. During the week the tendency in the value of money has been steadily downwards, and the supply seeking investment has been on the increase. The announcement of the directors may surprise, inasmuch as the continuous influx of gold into the Bank of England led the public to anticipate a rapid return to lower rates. The quotations for money are now as under:—

Thirty Days' and Sixty Days' Bills	..	6 7/8 per cent.
Three Months' Ditto	..	6 7/8
Six and Four Months' Ditto	..	7 1/8
Bank Bills	..	5 1/4

The Market for Home Securities has been buoyant during the greater part of the week, and an advance of 1/4 has taken place in the quotations. Consols, for Money, are now 87 1/2; for Account, 88 1/2; New Three per Cent, 88 1/2; India Five per Cent, 103 1/2; India Six per Cent, 104 1/2; March Exchange Bills, 4s. 4d. to par; and June Ditto, par to 1s. 10d.

About £9,000 are now on passage to this country from Australia. There is very little demand for gold for export, and the silver market remains flat. The Market for Foreign Securities has ruled firm, at enhanced quotations. Brazilian Scrip has realised 5 1/2; Brazilian Five per Cent, 1865, have been done at 7 1/2; Danubian Seven per Cent, 67; Egyptian Seven per Cent, 1864, 15; Ditto, Debentures, 80; Italian Five per Cent, 1863, 53; Ditto, 1864, 52; Mexican Three per Cent, 1861, 10 1/2; Ditto, 1862, 10 1/2; Ditto, 1863, 10 1/2; Russian Five per Cent, 1863, 84; Ditto, 1864, 82; Ditto, 1865, 82; Ditto, 1866, 82; Ditto, 1867, 82; Ditto, 1868, 82; Ditto, 1869, 82; Ditto, 1870, 82; Ditto, 1871, 82; Ditto, 1872, 82; Ditto, 1873, 82; Ditto, 1874, 82; Ditto, 1875, 82; Ditto, 1876, 82; Ditto, 1877, 82; Ditto, 1878, 82; Ditto, 1879, 82; Ditto, 1880, 82; Ditto, 1881, 82; Ditto, 1882, 82; Ditto, 1883, 82; Ditto, 1884, 82; Ditto, 1885, 82; Ditto, 1886, 82; Ditto, 1887, 82; Ditto, 1888, 82; Ditto, 1889, 82; Ditto, 1890, 82; Ditto, 1891, 82; Ditto, 1892, 82; Ditto, 1893, 82; Ditto, 1894, 82; Ditto, 1895, 82; Ditto, 1896, 82; Ditto, 1897, 82; Ditto, 1898, 82; Ditto, 1899, 82; Ditto, 1900, 82; Ditto, 1901, 82; Ditto, 1902, 82; 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CHEAP EXCURSIONS TO BRIGHTON
and BACK EVERY SUNDAY for 2s. from London Bridge, Victoria, and Kensington, at 9.0 a.m. The Kensington Train calls at Chelsea at 9.4 a.m.; Clapham Junction, 9.50 a.m.; Crystal Palace, 10.0 a.m.; Norwood Junction, 10.30 a.m.; and East Croydon, 10.40 a.m. where Excursion Tickets are issued. Trains return from Brighton for Victoria at 7.0 p.m.; for Kensington at 7.10 p.m. (calling at East Croydon, Norwood Junction, Crystal Palace, Clapham Junction, and Chelsea); and for London Bridge at 7.30 p.m.
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Children under Twelve years of age half price. No luggage allowed.

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The Victoria Train will leave Hastings on the Return Journey at 6.35 p.m.; St. Leonards, 6.45 p.m.; Eastbourne, 6.55 p.m.; Polegate, 7.10 p.m.; and Lewes at 7.37 p.m.; and the Return Train for London Bridge will leave Hastings at 6.10 p.m.; St. Leonards, 6.18 p.m.; Eastbourne, 6.35 p.m.; Polegate, 6.47 p.m.; and Lewes at 7.12 p.m.
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The Victoria Train will leave Portsmouth on the Return Journey at 6.30 p.m.; Havant at 7.05 p.m.; Ochester at 7.35 p.m.; Bognor at 7.55 p.m.; Littlehampton at 8.15 p.m.; and Arundel at 8.35 p.m. The Return Train for London Bridge will leave Portsmouth at 7.10 p.m.; Havant at 7.35 p.m.; Ochester at 7.45 p.m.; Bognor at 7.55 p.m.; Littlehampton at 8.15 p.m.; and Arundel at 8.35 p.m.
FARES THREE AND BACK, TO ALL STATIONS.
First Class, 5s. 6d.; Second Class, 5s. 6d.; Third Class, 3s. 6d.
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XXIV.—The Russian Spy.
A Working Man on the Education of the Working Classes.
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SHAWLS.—One Thousand Silk, Grenadine, Llama, and Wool Shawls, both Plain and Broché, in White, Black, and Colours (some slightly soiled), 1s. 11d., 2s. 11d., 3s. 11d., and 4s. 11d.; original cost 12s. 6d. to 31s. Also, a large parcel of Plain and Fancy Dresses (many less than half price), Black Glacé and Gros Grains, 19s. 6d., 23s. 6d., 26s. 9d., 28s. 6d., and 30s. 6d. the Full Dress.
On Monday next and during the Week, at T. SIMPSON and CO., 48, 49, 50, and 53, Farringdon-street, E.C.

W. F. THOMAS and CO.'S New Patent
SEWING-MACHINES, producing work alike upon both sides, 2s. 6d., Newgate-st., and Regent-street, Oxford-st., London.

LOCK, CHAIN, SHUTTLE, and
EMBROIDERY SEWING-MACHINES in great variety, and that can be well recommended, from 23s. to 250. Show-rooms and Private Tuition Rooms, 53, Fleet-street.—BRADFORD and CO., Proprietors. Prospectus free by post.

BRADFORD'S NEW PATENT "VOWEL"
WASHING-MACHINE.—No Washing-machine has ever given greater satisfaction to every class of purchaser and user, 53, Fleet-street, E.C.; Manchester and Dublin. Illustrated Catalogue, 64 pages, free by post.

BURBOW'S GLASSES.—Opera, Race, Field, and Marine, 23s. 6d., 26s. 9d., &c. Catalogue gratis. W. and J. BURBOW, Malvern.
London: Arnold, 72, Baker-st.; Wales and McCulloch, 55, Chancery-lane.

DELICATE and CLEAR COMPLEXIONS,
with a delightful and lasting fragrance, by using FIELD'S UNITED REVIVIFY SOAP TABLETS, 4d. and 6d. each. Order of your Chemist, Chandler, or Grocer.

PACKETS, 8d.
BROWN and POLSON'S
CORN FLOUR,
with
STEWED FRUIT.
To obtain extra profit by the sale, other kinds are sometimes offered instead of Brown and Polson's.

CLOSE OF THE SEASON.
JOHN HARVEY and SON,
Gloucester House, 69, Ludgate-hill.
All Fancy Silks reduced in price.
A large quantity of Single Dresses, 1s. 10d., 1s. 11d., 2s. 6d., and 2s. 9d.; these have been greatly lowered.
Silk and Worsteds Grenadines, some Single Full-Dress Lengths, 12s. 6d.
Mohair and Skirt Fabrics in a large variety, suitable for seaside and country wear, silk Jackets and Circular Cloaks, White and Fancy Summer Cloaks, 12s. 6d. Some best French Kid Gloves, slightly soiled.

CHEAP SILKS at BAKER and CRISP'S.
Patterns free.
Striped, Checked, and Fancy Silks, from 4s. 6d.
H. Crisp, 198, Regent-street.

BEAUTIFUL SILKS, 2 guineas.
BAKER and CRISP'S 3 guinea Silks are best in value, newest in style, and in greatest variety.—Patterns free.—198, Regent-street.

BLACK SILKS! BLACK SILKS!
BAKER and CRISP especially adapted Agents for the Chamber De Roi and Cables-cord Gros de Londres (wear guaranteed), from 27s. 6d. to 3 guineas Full Dress. Bright, wide, and durable Glacé, Gros Grains, &c., from 1 guinea. H. Crisp.—Patterns free.—198, Regent-street.

JAPANESE SILKS.—BAKER and CRISP
have just imported a large lot of these beautiful Silks, in Plain and Self Colours, Shepherd Checks, and Stripes, and are selling them under 23s. the Dress.
H. Crisp.—Patterns free.—198, Regent-street.

GLOVES! BEAUTIFUL FRENCH KID,
10s. 6d. half-dress, post-free. Alpine Kid, 1s. 6d. pair; very best Paris, 2s. 9d. Sample for 3 extra stamps.
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BAKER and CRISP'S EARLY AUTUMN
FABRICS. Patterns free.
The New Norwich Striped Camlets .. 12s. 6d. to 18s. 6d.
The New Saxony Linseys .. 12s. 6d. to 1 guinea.
The New Wool Serges .. 12s. 6d. to 1 guinea.
The New Corded Poplins .. 35s. 6d. to 2 guineas.
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TO LADIES LEAVING TOWN.
EXTRAORDINARY BARGAINS.
Striped Alpaca Dresses for 2s. 11d., twelve yards; real value, 7s.
Useful Dresses, worth 10s. 6d., for 4s. 6d., twelve yards.
A lot of Soiled Dresses, in Fifty packages, during the Season 8d., are reduced to 5d. 9d. Grenadines, Muslins, Foulards, and other Summer Dresses, at one third their value.
Patterns of these cannot be sent by post.
An inspection is solicited.
AMOTT and COMPANY, Crystal Warehouses, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

AMOTT'S CHEAP SILKS.
Rich Checked Silks, worth 3s. 6d., for 2s. 4d. a yard.
Small Patterns Silks for Young Ladies, good qualities and colours, 5s. 6d. per yard.
Wedding Silks, worth 70s., for 23s. 6d.
Rich Plain Glacé Silks, 2s. 11d. per yard.
Figured and Corded Silks, 2 guineas 15 yards.
New Japanese Silks, 3 guineas 14 yards.
PATTERNS POST-FREE.
61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

AMOTT'S CHEAP SILKS.
Rich Black Glacé 15 guineas 15 yards.
Black Gros Grain Silks, worth 3s. 9d., for 2s. 11d.
Rich Black Corded Silks, worth 24 guineas, now selling at 23s. 6d., for 15 yards.
Several Hundred Single Dress Lengths, 1 to 3 guineas; worth double.
PATTERNS POST-FREE.
61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

PIANOFORTES.—MOORE and MOORE
LET on HIRE the following PIANOFORTES, for three years, after which, and without any further charge whatever, the pianoforte becomes the property of the hirer.—Pianos, 54 guineas per quarter; Pianos, 5 guineas per quarter; Cottage Pianos, 23s. 6d. per quarter; Drawing-room Model Cottage, 43s. 6d. per quarter; Oblong Grand, 5 guineas per quarter; Cottage Grand, 6 guineas per quarter. These instruments are warranted, 104 and 106, BISHOPSGATE-STREET, E.C.
Jury award, International Exhibition, 1882; Honourable Mention for good and cheap Pianos to Moore and Moore.

MOORE and MOORE'S Three-years' System
applies to HARMONIUMS, at 5 guineas, 24 guineas, 3 guineas, and 4s. 6d. per quarter.—104 and 106, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

MOORE and MOORE extend their Three-years' System of Hire to Purchase to all parts of the United Kingdom, carriage-free.—104 and 106, Bishopsgate-street, E.C.

BUTLER'S BRASS BAND INSTRUMENTS.
Cornets, Saxhorns, Drums, Flutes, Concertinas, &c., in use in all parts of the kingdom, giving universal satisfaction. Butler's Cornet Model, the easiest Cornet yet produced, with double water key, in case, 26s. Other Cornets, from 30s.—Manufactory, Haymarket, London. Prices, with drawings, post-free.

DOMESTIC IRONMONGERY.
FENDERS, FIREIRONS, BATHS, TRAVELLING-BOXES, &c. Cheapest House for thoroughly good articles. Catalogue sent free.—SIMMONS and SON, 166 and 187, Tottenham-court-road.

KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY, DUBLIN
EXHIBITION, 1883.—This celebrated old Irish Whisky gained the Dublin Prize Medal. It is pure, mild, mellow, delicious, and very wholesome. Sold in bottles, 5s. 6d. each, at the retail house in London; by the agents in the principal towns in England; and by Messrs. W. & A. Gilbey, Ltd., 10, Abchurch-lane. Observe the red seal, pink label, and brand mark, "Kinahan's LL Whisky."

ALLSOPP'S PALE and BURTON ALES.
The above Ales are now being supplied in the finest condition, in Bottles and in Casks, by J. & A. ALLSOPP, Ltd., and CO., at their New London Bridge Store, London Bridge, E.C.

CHOCOLAT-MENIER, for Breakfast.

CHOCOLAT-MENIER, for Eating.

CHOCOLAT-MENIER. Pure, wholesome,
and delicious. Consumption exceeds 5,000,000lb.

MENIER'S FRENCH CHOCOLATE
Warehouse, 25, Henriette-st., Strand, London. Sold everywhere.

BREAKFAST.—EPPS'S COCOA
(more commonly called Epps's Homoeopathic Cocoa, as being prepared and introduced by J. Epps, the Homoeopathic Chemist first established in England). The very agreeable character of this preparation has rendered it a general favourite. For breakfast, no other beverage is equally invigorating and sustaining.

Medals—London, 1851 and 1862; New York, Paris, and Dublin.
FRY'S CHOCOLATE FOR EATING
is prepared with scrupulous regard to purity, and, being exceedingly wholesome, is much valued for
CHILDREN, WITH WHOM IT IS A UNIVERSAL FAVOURITE.

Makers to the Queen and Prince of Wales.

FRY'S CHOCOLATE CREAMS
are an exceedingly delicious Sweetmeat, rapidly increasing in public favour.

WHY NOT USE THE BEST?
MAIZENA
is the only "Prize-medal" Corn Flour; it was also reported by the Jury
"Exceedingly Excellent Food."
N.B. It costs no more than inferior articles.
Try it once.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
The Annual Meeting was held on Friday, the 10th inst., Charles Turner, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

The following is an epitome of the Report:—
FIRE BRANCH.
"The progress of the Company, as respects the amount of business effected, has been satisfactory. The return of duty published by Parliament, on the motion of the Chairman of this Company, exhibiting by far the largest measure of increase which the Company has ever experienced."

"The total net amount of Fire premium for the year, after deducting guarantees, is £10,715 13s. 6d."
LIFE BRANCH.
"Turning now to the Life Branch, it remains to be reported that the progress has been marked by unobscured success. This will be made clear by one or two statistical exposures."

"Taking the four previous quinquennial periods, it is found that the first, from 1845 to 1849 inclusive, commenced with a sum assured for—
Year 1845 of .. £23,349 .. and ended the period with a total sum assured of £272,796

The Second, 1850-54 .. 95,650 .. do. do. 733,408
The Third, 1855-59 .. 165,500 .. do. do. 1,555,678
Do. 1860-64 .. 306,514 .. do. do. 3,439,215
Do. 1865-69 .. 449,949 .. do. do. 5,165,915
And now the first year of the fifth life period—viz., 1865—the Company has granted assurances for £288,663, nearly twice the amount at the commencement of the last quinquennial period.

"If, therefore, the result of the total five years, ending in the year 1869, were to have a corresponding increase with the previous periods of five years each, the amount of business that would be effected in the quinquennial period now running would be more than has ever been on record in any insurance establishment in this country."

"The Directors have likewise to report that the Life Funds have increased by the sum of £103,146, the accumulated funds of this department now amounting to £740,458. As an addition of, at least, £100,000 per annum to those accumulations during the next two years may now be fairly anticipated, it is within reasonable expectation that during this period the Life Funds will approach nearly to £2,000,000 sterling."

"The Directors propose to the Proprietors that a dividend be declared of 3s. per share, and a bonus of 4s. per share, together 7s. per share, free of income tax.
"It is a matter of satisfaction to state that, after withdrawing the amount of this dividend and bonus from the profit and loss account, a credit balance will still remain to that account of no less than £28,076 7s. 11d., in addition to the reserve fund, which, by the augmentation of the year, now reaches the sum of £1,616,915 13s. 6d." This Report was unanimously adopted.

FERCY M. DOVE, Manager and Actuary.
JOHN R. JOHNSON, Secretary in London.
£250,000 HAVE BEEN PAID
as COMPENSATION for
ACCIDENTS OF ALL KINDS, by the
RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY.
An Annual Payment of £25 to £250,000
£1000 in case of Death, or £50 per Week
while laid up by Injury.
Office: 64, Cornhill, and 10, Regent-street.
WILLIAM J. VIAN, Sec.

E. DENT and CO., WATCH, CLOCK, and
CHRONOMETER MAKERS to HER MAJESTY, H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES, and H.M. the EMPEROR of RUSSIA, and Makers of the Great Clock for the House of Parliament, 61 Strand, W.C., and 24 and 34, Royal Exchange, E.C.

Guineas	Silver Lever Watches, from	Guineas	Silver Lever Watches, from
15 to 20	from	5 to 15	from
20 to 25	from	15 to 20	from
25 to 30	from	20 to 25	from
30 to 35	from	25 to 30	from
35 to 40	from	30 to 35	from
40 to 45	from	35 to 40	from
45 to 50	from	40 to 45	from
50 to 55	from	45 to 50	from
55 to 60	from	50 to 55	from
60 to 65	from	55 to 60	from
65 to 70	from	60 to 65	from
70 to 75	from	65 to 70	from
75 to 80	from	70 to 75	from
80 to 85	from	75 to 80	from
85 to 90	from	80 to 85	from
90 to 95	from	85 to 90	from
95 to 100	from	90 to 95	from
100 to 105	from	95 to 100	from
105 to 110	from	100 to 105	from
110 to 115	from	105 to 110	from
115 to 120	from	110 to 115	from
120 to 125	from	115 to 120	from
125 to 130	from	120 to 125	from
130 to 135	from	125 to 130	from
135 to 140	from	130 to 135	from
140 to 145	from	135 to 140	from
145 to 150	from		